

صحة من الامم

Friday April 12 1996

Algeria D 2.50	Kenya K 105.25	Qatar QR 1.00
Argentina A 2.00	Malaysia M 2.00	Romania R 2.00
Australia A 2.00	Malta M 2.00	Saudi Arabia S 2.00
Austria A 2.00	Mexico M 2.00	South Africa S 2.00
Belgium B 2.00	Moldova M 2.00	Spain S 2.00
Canada C 2.00	Monaco M 2.00	Sweden S 2.00
Czechia C 2.00	Norway N 2.00	Switzerland S 2.00
Denmark D 2.00	Poland P 2.00	Taiwan T 2.00
Finland F 2.00	Portugal P 2.00	Thailand T 2.00
France F 2.00	Russia R 2.00	Turkey T 2.00
Germany G 2.00	Slovakia S 2.00	USA US 2.00
Greece G 2.00	Slovenia S 2.00	Yemen Y 2.00
Hong Kong H 2.00	Sri Lanka S 2.00	Zimbabwe Z 2.00
India I 2.00	Taiwan T 2.00	
Indonesia I 2.00	Tanzania T 2.00	
Italy I 2.00	Turkey T 2.00	
Japan J 2.00	Ukraine U 2.00	
Korea K 2.00	USA US 2.00	
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The Guardian

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The latest music and books



The debate feminists ignore

What are fathers for?

Howard page 9

Blair's pitch for power

Labour leader stakes claim for centre ground

Patrick Wintour in New York and Rebecca Smithers

TONY BLAIR audaciously re-positioned his party on the middle ground of British politics yesterday when he declared Labour as the party of the centre, committed to low tax, entrepreneurship and equity.

In a move designed to push John Major to the right of British politics and to embrace his own far left, Mr Blair deployed a set-piece speech to 600 businessmen in New York to assert that the centre was now the fertile ground for political ideas.

Speaking as Labour was heading for a resounding victory in the Staffordshire South-East byelection, he said: "New Labour will be a government of the radical centre offering a real and dynamic change but doing it from an explicitly centre-ground position, taking people with us and recognising that unless we combine change with equity, change will not come."

Labour's win last night will slash John Major's majority to a humiliating one. The byelection, in a traditionally Conservative Middle England constituency, was the first serious test faced by the Government since the dust settled on the Tory leadership contest last summer.

In his speech, Mr Blair denounced his critics as fatuous and absurd, telling his business audience that the party's changes were real and permanent. He asserted that many of the old distinctions between left and right were now redundant.

"I believe the centre can be a fertile ground for radical politics," he said. "The extremes of left and right simply will not meet the real challenges. A modern party, to be successful in the modern world, must be in the centre speaking for the mainstream majority."

He rejected those on the left who had seen high tax as a virility symbol. Despite suggestions that he will make tax cuts for the middle class his first concern, he said his party should be to lower taxes at the bottom end and reduce the appallingly high marginal rates of tax paid by millions.

But he also promised he would not punish those on modest incomes paying the top income tax rate, like schoolteachers, middle managers and police officers.



Mr Blair spoke of a party liberated from outdated dogma and willing to address the new competitive challenges of the 1990s. Trumpeting his changes he said: "New Labour is a party whose leaders will promise what they can deliver and not promise what they can't. We don't have to say we will nationalise industry when we know that we won't. We don't have to wear high tax as a badge of political pride."

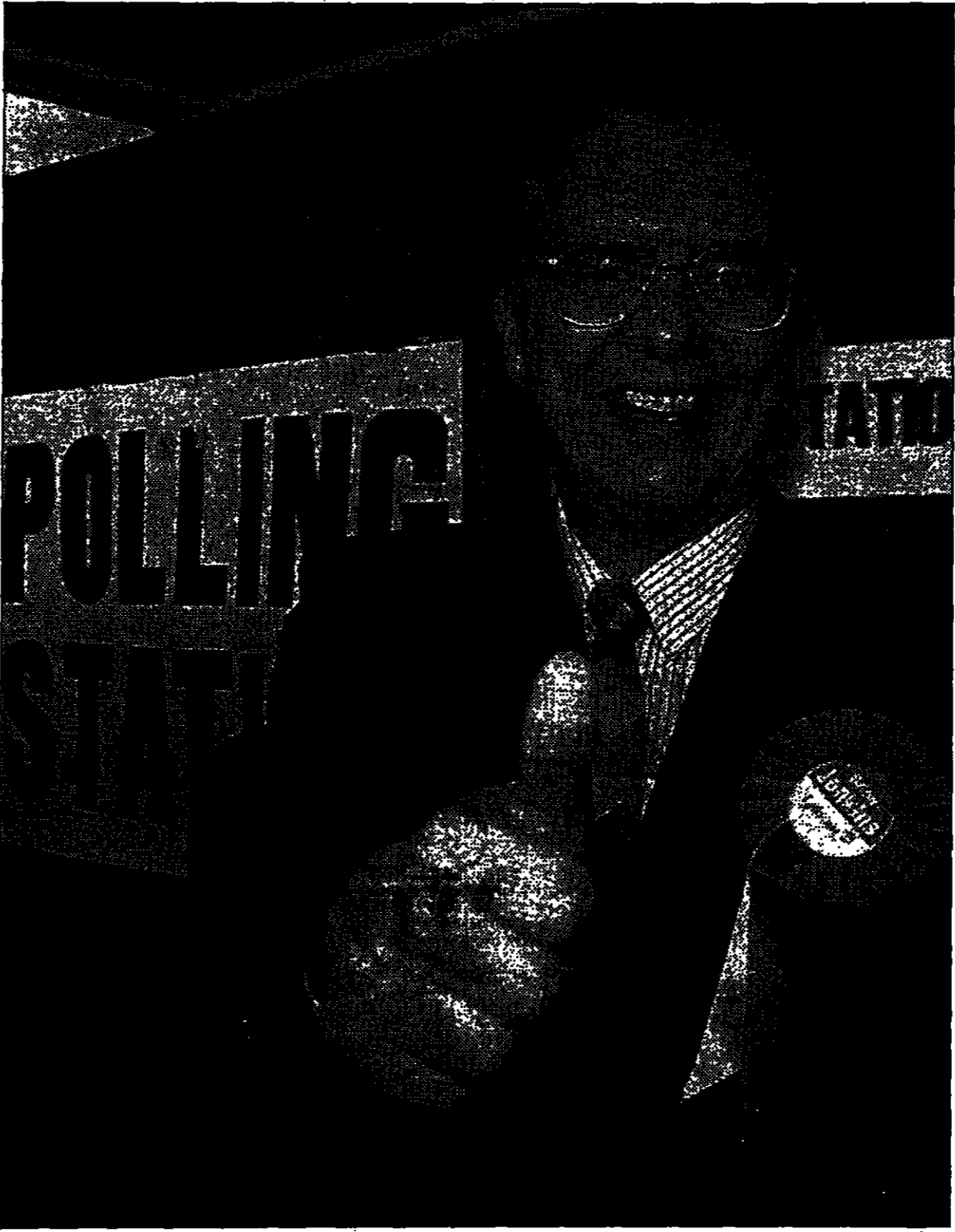
"We can approach problems free from dogma and come up with real solutions that can help create a society of opportunity and justice. Radical solutions. It is at times they cross left-right boundaries, so be it, and so what?"

He argued that politicians' obsessions with left and right had helped breed the disaffection from modern politics and predicted that in future left and right would dip into the common pot for policy solutions.

Despite his rigidly pro-market audience, he refused to ditch his support for the minimum wage, saying it was both efficient and fair. But he also promised that his party's commitment to the Social Chapter would not result in the imposition of a German-style social security system in Britain.

Overall, his aim was to lift burdens on business, especially small business. New Labour needed no persuasion of the need to encourage entrepreneurs, innovators and wealth creators. Offering a meritocracy rather than egalitarianism, he said: "I want a system where people can become wealthy through hard work and merit, not rely on inheritance or a better class of accountants."

In the strongest underlying theme of his three-day visit, he argued that new global markets and the intensification of competition made it paramount importance to equip and educate the nation's labour force, so making them flexible enough to respond to the market.



Labour candidate Brian Jenkins displaying a winner's confidence in Tamworth yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: DAN CHING

and asserted: "Labour and higher taxes go together like strawberries and cream." Mr Blair described Mr Major's remarks as sad, adding that the British were fed up with the Conservatives' own diet of higher taxes.

Mr Blair meets President Clinton today in what his aides regard as so far a highly successful visit. Labour fought its campaign largely on family finances and the 22 new Tory taxes that have been introduced since the 1992 general election.

Mr Blair's aides described the attempt by John Major to attack Mr Blair's visit as a huge error which only drew attention to the way in which the Government had descended into opposition.

In London, Mr Major had told the BBC that Mr Blair was not stealing his thunder

triggered by the death last December of the Conservative whip, Sir David Lighthow, had been described as the most important of this Parliament.

From the start, it was a two-horse race between the Labour candidate, Brian Jenkins, and the Conservative candidate, Jimmy James. Labour fought its campaign largely on family finances and the 22 new Tory taxes that have been introduced since the 1992 general election.

The Conservatives were initially confident that its supporters would vote on the strength of the Government's track record. But they feared that a visit by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to Tamworth last week may have fuelled false expectations of a victory, and have since been privately bracing themselves for defeat, even claiming that a 5,000 Labour majority would be tolerable.

Mr Blair recently been keen to nurture an image other than his hard-won hard man tag, saying he is seeking a career in movies

when he finishes in football. He has since helped in a Health Education Authority campaign against testicular cancer and has been invited to address the Oxford Union and Eton pupils in the past year.

Jones says he is a changed character since the days when his description of how to rake an opponent's Achilles tendon in the video Soccer's Hard Man, landed him with a £20,000 fine from the Football Association. "When I started playing I was only 20," said Jones. "Now I am older and more educated. I am captain of a Premier League side and now I can put my arm around the lads and guide them."

Peter Preston, *Sai Littlejohn*, page 9

Defensive wall blocks way to Euro conference for Vinnie Jones, sporting ambassador



Vinnie Jones: mistaken identity? PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID MUNDEN

John Duncan, and Mark Puffer in Amsterdam

VINNIE JONES'S new career as a self-appointed ambassador of sporting tolerance and fair play got off to a bad start yesterday when he was refused admission to a Council of Europe conference on sport and the organisers tried to throw him out of his hotel.

The faces of conference organisers were as red as the curl Jones has seen 11 times in his football career when the Wimbledon footballer arrived at the conference in a chauffeur-driven car only to be told that there was no record of him

having been invited. "It seems to me they have got frightened and changed things at the last minute," said Jones. "But why didn't they tell me? It's a real cock-up."

"When we got here, they even tried to move us to another hotel," said his adviser, Steve Davies. The Dutch minister of sport Erica Terpstra fielded a junior spokesman to explain the error, perhaps aware of Jones's grip that "if you sort their top geezer out early on you win". Jones won anyway, without resort to the commitment that once saw him booked within six seconds of kick-off when playing for Chelsea. "He can sit in on

the conference," said the spokesman, "but he is not going to say anything. It seems that he received the invite by mistake."

Instead, Jones was to be let loose on a television programme last night with top sportsman Michael Schumacher, Damon Hill and Eric Cantona, an event he decided to prepare for with a long lunch in Amsterdam town centre away from "the stuffy atmosphere" of yesterday's conference. "I don't know what I'm going to say yet," said Jones. "I'm always spontaneous."

Jones has recently been keen to nurture an image other than his hard-won hard man tag, saying he is seeking a career in movies

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Sketch

The Indian vote trick



Suzanne Goldenberg

NOTHING tests the skills of an Indian politician so much as an election. But the art lies not in such mundane concerns as election rallies: in a country with 590 million eligible voters and limited entertainment opportunities, anyone can get the crowds out.

It is what goes on behind the scenes that counts, skills that owe less to the recognised rules of parliamentary democracy than an ability to dole out favours. Matang Singh, junior parliamentary affairs minister in the outgoing Congress (I) government has pledged to uphold the usual traditions — the senior minister sadly having been forced to sit out this election after being charged with corruption.

First night

Wholesome but untouchable

Lyn Gardner

Definitely Doris

The King's Head, Islington

DEFINITELY one for the music-lover, Doris Day and her band of friends and friends in Doris Kappelhoff, better known as Doris Day, is as cute and wholesome as the lady's little snub nose.

He adjusted his lustrous caftan before resuming the lotus position on the sofa. While he waited for the next caller, he turned his gaze to the gyrations of the Hindi-language movie on the television set.

"That's one more out," he laughed. Mr Singh was enormously impressed by his own craftiness. An ethnic Bihari who parlayed his connections to coal suppliers into a career as the Rajya Sabha (upper house) member for Assam, he boasted that he enjoys the full confidence of the prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao.

And well he should. In just one afternoon, through a series of ferocious telephone calls, he persuaded opposition candidates in 15 or 16 constituencies to withdraw in favour of the Congress.

It was half-an-hour past the deadline for withdrawals, but Mr Singh didn't give up. A change of tone, and he was on the phone to the chief minister, the police chief, and the top government officials in the state, informing them of the drop-outs still to come.

Normally, he said, he cannot abide the chief minister of Assam. But the need to win took precedence, and so they did a deal. Mr Singh said he chose half the Congress candidates in the state, selecting them for their personal loyalty. "All my people have been taken care of."

He said he had been privy to other Congress calculations: reeling off the number of seats the party will drop or gain in 26 states. The figures, he said, had been supplied by "outside and internal agencies". Mr Singh grinned. It's clear he means that India's intelligence agencies have been used to assess the party's electoral prospects.

As the afternoon ticked on, more callers arrived: the candidates who have been persuaded to step down for Mr Singh's men. They set down a wicker of paper, the betel nut which has stained Mr Singh's teeth blood-red after years of chewing. They stooped to touch his feet in a sign of respect, and then stepped back, awaiting their reward.

Mr Singh fluttered the fingers of his right hand in their direction, dismissed. "I will accommodate them in the long run," he said after they left, chastened. "They can join the party."

Definitely Doris runs until May 26



One of the bombs, delivered to Barclays' branch in Ladbrooke Grove, west London in December 1994 and, below, the 'Reservoir Dogs' logo and message which appear on the devices

Barclays bomber 'may be acting alone'

Extortionist could be ex-military man claiming to act for group with a grudge against a bank

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

THE extortionist who has sent 26 explosive devices with demands for money from Barclays Bank may be an ex-military man who is pretending to represent a group with a grudge against the bank.

Police sources say the man who has sent 26 homemade bombs to various buildings connected with Barclays appears to be acting alone, despite his claims that he represents a "small group of Barclays Bank victims".

From the type of bombs and the vocabulary of his letters, it appears he has served at some time in one of the armed forces.

Yesterday Scotland Yard confirmed that the investigation into the identity of the man who uses the code names of Mardi Gras or Mardine

Graham had been approaching what they believed was a crucial point this week as the bomber issued a one-week ultimatum. Police had hoped to maintain secrecy while negotiations continued.

But the union which represents more than two thirds of Barclays Bank staff yesterday attacked the "completely irrational secrecy". Paul Snowball, general secretary of Unifi, said: "Staff were endangered every day for 16 months, and no one knew a thing about it. It's a miracle more people weren't injured."

One employee was slightly injured by a device, and another suffered temporary deafness. Many devices failed to explode.

Last night Barclays said it had warned all staff about the devices in December 1994, when the campaign started. A further warning went out yesterday.

Anti-terrorist branch detectives are still bemused as to the motives and identity of the bomber. One theory is that he blames Barclays for the failure of a business or is the relative of one of the many people made redundant by Barclays.

The first six bombs were sent by post in December, 1994. The packages carried a distinctive 'Reservoir Dogs' logo with the words "Welcome to the Mardi Gras Experience". This phrase, with the word 'Gras' sometimes spelled 'Gra', has been used on some subsequent devices.



Barclays, on the advice of the police, did not concede to his demands for large sums of money. He told the bank to communicate through the columns of the Daily Telegraph, but failed to make contact when police responded anonymously with small advertisements.

Last week the bomber, using the name Mardine Graham, appeared to lose patience and wrote to the Daily Mail. The letter stated: "Mardi Gra is the codename of a small group of Barclays Bank victims who are in the process of reversing the tide of fortune into their favour after a year of activity..."

Blackouts imposed to help negotiations but can raise media fears of abuse by publicity-shy police

FOR more than 16 months the police managed to keep the secret of the Barclays Bank extortionist. They felt negotiations would be easier without publicity, which can also provoke copycat threats, writes Duncan Campbell.

Details of the story first emerged last year, but police asked newspapers not to publish. Last week, when the Daily Mail was contacted by the extortionist with an ultimatum, police believed he was becoming desperate.

Scotland Yard urged newspapers to maintain a temporary blackout. That ended yesterday.

There was no official media blackout, which is only requested when there is a specified threat to life. These are most frequently sought during kidnaps. If a kidnaper had made a clear threat to his victim and warned the family not to contact the police, a request is put out to all media asking them not to publish details.

London before being released by the Metropolitan Police on April 3. Scotland Yard had requested a blackout until the completion of the operation.

One of the longest silences was during the investigation into the extortionist Rodney Witcheo, a former Metropolitan Police officer who had decided he could commit the perfect crime by threatening to contaminate pet foods and baby foods. He succeeded at first, persuading his targets to pay £30,000 into a bogus account, and drawing money from cashpoints. But he became cocky and lazy, and was caught trying to take money from a machine.

The police feared publicity would alert what they believed to be a gang. Once the story was revealed, it led to copycat blackmail attempts.

During the height of the IRA's bombing campaign, a media blackout was requested by the Association of Chief Police Officers concerning what were believed to be IRA attempts to attack Territorial Army offices in England. Undercover officers had been assigned to the offices, and it was feared attempts to catch the IRA in the act would be blown by news coverage.

Reporters expressed disquiet that were believed to be IRA attempts to attack Territorial Army offices in England. Undercover officers had been assigned to the offices, and it was feared attempts to catch the IRA in the act would be blown by news coverage.

Air conditioning fans German airport blaze as death toll rises

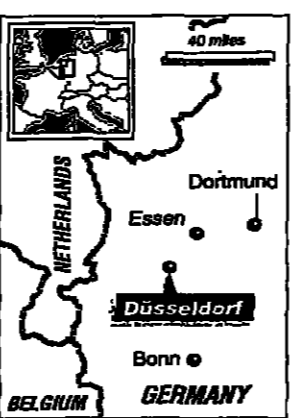
At least 18 dead and 150 hurt as smoke engulfs arrivals terminal

Ian Traynor in Stuttgart

AT LEAST 18 people were killed and scores more injured in a fire at Düsseldorf airport in northern Germany yesterday. Most of them apparently died after smoke and fumes from a shop fire overwhelmed the air conditioning system and engulfed the entire airport terminal.

Police said six of the victims succumbed in a smoke-filled airport lift. Around 150 people were injured in the blaze, which destroyed the terminal and sparked a panic rush for the exits among the thousands of waiting passengers.

Last night firefighters were still tackling the blaze. The death toll is expected to rise



Further. Police were unable to provide details of identity or nationality of the dead. The smoke was so thick in the terminal that firefighters and police were unable to recover some victims.

A police spokesman said: "Rescue workers found some of the bodies in a lift in the arrivals section. We are not ruling out further deaths."

shop in the arrivals hall at Terminal A, used mainly by the German national carrier, Lufthansa, for both domestic and international flights.

Panic broke out in the arrivals hall when the fire broke out at about 4.25pm. Officials evacuated the terminal and closed the airport, which was not expected to reopen until Friday.

There were no indications that the fire had been started deliberately. Repairs were being carried out at the florist's and speculation last night centred on an accident during the work. The fire appeared to have started in the floor between the first and second floors.

Early reports said the fire was relatively minor, and criticism was mounting last night that the fire brigade had not responded quickly enough. Once mobilised, all fire brigade units in Düsseldorf were despatched, while fire engines and teams poured in to help from the surrounding area.

The delay was said to have allowed smoke to overwhelm

the air conditioning ducts and piping. Toxic fumes rapidly turned the terminal into a suffocation chamber.

"My colleague saw sparks flying out of a ventilation grill over this flower shop, and he immediately called the fire brigade," an unidentified man told German state television.

All flights into Düsseldorf — capital of North-Rhine-Westphalia, the biggest of Germany's 16 federal states — were turned away and routed to nearby Bonn.

"All the planes at the airport were carefully removed from the terminal area as soon as the fire broke out and parked in safe places," said a spokeswoman for the airport.

The spokeswoman added that people were treated at the scene before being transported to hospitals. Uninjured travellers were taken to hotels or to the Konrad Adenauer Airport, which serves Cologne and Bonn. Planes that had been scheduled to arrive at Düsseldorf, 35 miles to the north, were being redirected.

Pilot, 7, dies in attempt at record

Martin Walker in Washington

AN attempt by 7-year-old Jessica Dubroff to become the youngest pilot to fly across North America ended in tragedy yesterday. Her single-engine Cessna aircraft crashed as she took off during a hailstorm in Cheyenne, Wyoming, killing herself, her father and

her flying instructor. The aircraft had just completed the first leg of the journey, from the Pacific Coast at San Francisco across the Rocky Mountains to Cheyenne. The flight should have ended at Cape Cod, near Boston, today before flying back to California.

Her father, Roy Dubroff, in the rear seat. "The weather was clearly a factor, with heavy rain and hail," said Dick Royce, of the Cheyenne Police Department. "But we have to await the Federal Aviation Authority inspectors for a full report."

licence until the year 2005. "I love flying so much, I can't wait to get back into the air," were the young girl's last known words, given to a local television crew in Wyoming as she completed her pre-flight checks.

The Cessna-177 aircraft was equipped with dual controls. Jessica sat in the main pilot's seat, with special extensions to allow

Scientists trace gene that causes premature ageing

Tim Radford Science Editor

A TEAM of scientists in Seattle, Washington, has tracked down a gene for premature ageing. Werner's syndrome strikes people in their twenties. Victims go grey, their skin loses its suppleness and they develop cataracts. They are also

prone to cancers, heart disease and die before they are 50.

The discovery of a faulty gene which prematurely ages those people who inherit the gene from both parents is reported in the US journal Science today. British scientists working on the ageing process hailed the discovery by Gerard Schellenberg and scientists at the University of Washington as a landmark

The Open University advertisement for a Secondary Schools Part-time study program. It includes details about the program's structure, subjects, and contact information for PGCE applications.

Handwritten Arabic text: صكتنا من الاجل

صوتك من الاعمال

House price rises ease equity trap

Teresa Hunter

EVIDENCE that the housing market may have turned a corner emerged yesterday with news that sharp price rises in the South-east released almost 300,000 families trapped by negative equity.

Prices throughout Britain rose by 1.5 per cent over the last quarter, boosting the value of homes in nine out of 12 regions, according to the Halifax's regional house price survey, published yesterday. A typical house now costs 0.3 per cent more than a year ago. But in the South-east prices rose 2.2 per cent over the past three months, pushing house prices up by 1.3 per cent compared with a year ago. Prices in Greater London also blossomed, rising by 2.8 per cent over the quarter and 1.4 per cent over the year.

Lenders say most activity is taking place in the South-east's first-time buyers' market, where prices have risen by 4.5 per cent over the past six months. This has fuelled hopes that the housing market has begun a healthy recovery, which traditionally begins at the bottom and works its way up.

The number of households with mortgages worth more than the value of their property plunged by 383,000 in the first quarter of 1996, compared with the final quarter of last year, according to a report published by UBS analyst Rob Thomas. This is the largest decline for almost three years and takes the number of affected properties to 964,000, dipping below the million mark for the first time since 1992.

The amount owed by those in negative equity now typically stands at 64,000 — and overall has fallen to 64 billion compared with 110 billion in 1993, according to UBS.

Mr Thomas said: "All the signs are there now for a classic housing market recovery."

Woolwich economist Martin Ellis was also optimistic about prospects for house prices this year and said that his negative equity survey due next week would confirm a substantial fall in negative equity.

He said: "All the signs are good. The only cloud is the general election which may tempt people to put off purchases."

However, the Halifax was more cautious. General Manager David Gilchrist said: "The latest figures are very good news indeed, but we want to see any improvement sustained for a few months more before we can claim that the recovery has begun."

"The underlying trends look very promising. People will soon see their incomes rising with tax cuts, and the negative impact of the changes to benefits and mortgage tax relief are beginning to fade. But we have seen the signs of upturns like this in the past, which have petered out later in the year."

Homeowners in the North enjoyed a 2.2 per cent price rise over the past three months, leaving their houses worth 0.5 per cent more than a year ago.

Northern Ireland also saw big price increases, despite fears about the peace process. They rose by 5.4 per cent, pushing the value of an average house up by 18.9 per cent over the year.

Prices in Yorkshire and Humberside grew by 1.5 per cent over the quarter, and property in the North-west showed a 0.5 per cent price increase — leaving homeowners in the region with a 4 per cent fall over the year.

In the South-west prices rose by 1.5 per cent over the quarter, offsetting the region's trend seen in the region since the end of 1994, and leaving prices up over the year by 0.8 per cent.

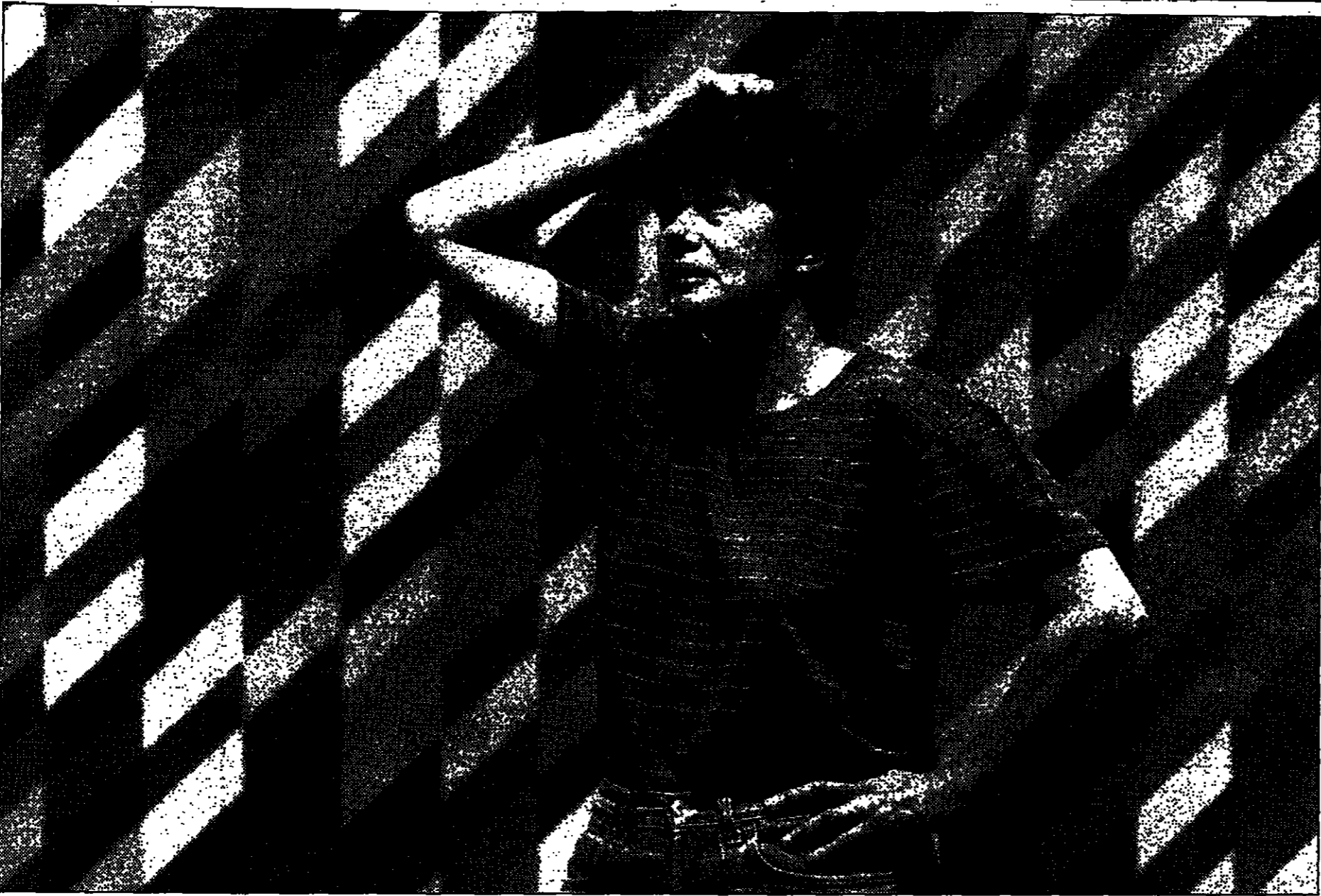
Prices in Wales increased by 2.3 per cent, but remain 0.4 per cent below their level a year ago. Prices in Scotland remained unchanged, although they are still 1.4 per cent up on last year.

The Midlands fared less well, with prices falling by around 0.7 per cent.

The Halifax and UBS both believe house prices across the country will rise by 2 per cent this year, although UBS said it might revise its estimate upwards if April showed similar strong growth.

Mr Thomas said: "April is the key month as far as determining activity over the year, because it marks the beginning of the housebuying season."

But Mr Gilchrist added: "There is some suspicion that the traditional pattern of demand may have changed when the Government moved the budget from March to December."



Bridget Riley, for many the artistic voice of the '60s, and (below) Blaze, the first of a series including the one at the centre of the row with Harrods

PHOTOGRAPH: HENRIETTA BUTLER

Black and white spiral proves a grey area in Harrods v Riley

Alex Bellas

THE painting's original concept may have centred on a little visual trickery, but artist Bridget Riley was under no illusion when she popped into Harrods and saw a black and white spiral among the first-floor racks.

The stunning image — giving "atmosphere" to a window display of retro-style women's fashion — was, she thought, an identical copy of a work she painted in 1964.

Unlucky Harrods. Miss Riley, one of Britain's most successful contemporary artists whose abstract paintings in the 1960s for many define the decade, is also considered rather litigious.

Two years ago she sued Nestlé for posters advertising Sun Pat Stripey Peanut Butter using stripes she argued she patented in 1968. She won after a year-long legal battle. Other victims include Gilbey's Gin, which admitted infringing her copyright in the early 1970s. It settled out of court.



About a fortnight ago, a writ arrived at the Knightsbridge store, claiming last month's first floor display was a copy of her work, Blaze 4.

Harrods, whose in-house artists painted the spiral, have said they will contest the action in the High Court. It is believed their legal advice is that Miss Riley must show that she has suffered financial loss as a result of the painting as well as breach of copyright.

Miss Riley, aged 68 and a former National Gallery trustee, was unavailable for comment yesterday. But her solicitor, Sarah Byrt, issued a statement saying: "Miss Riley always takes a very severe view of infringement of her copyright."

The display has since been taken down as Harrods prepares to go to court. Blaze 4 is in an undisclosed private collection.

The case will turn on complex issues of how simple a design can be to be covered by copyright. Several of Miss Riley's paintings use very basic images.

It also opens the question of imitation versus inspiration. Her immense success has meant that she has created a particular style and influenced a generation of artists, over whose work she cannot claim copyright.

In the Sun Pat case, the posters were withdrawn as soon as Miss Riley complained. Her then lawyer, Stephen Garre, said at the time: "She was distressed because she has never allowed her paintings to be exploited in any commercial way and she was upset that people thought she'd made an exception for Sun Pat. I'm sure it's an excellent product, but Miss Riley felt it was not one which she wanted to endorse in any way."

Brian Sewell, the outspoken art critic who makes no secret of his irritation with most contemporary art, said: "I really don't see how you can take a particular range of colours and say this is my territory and nobody else's, which is what she seems to be saying."

"Her work vaguely resembles many printed fabrics which were around before she put things on canvas."

"Really she should sue every deck chair. Clearly the next step is to copyright straight lines."

Israel bombs Beirut to punish Hizbullah

Sea and air attacks to last several days as Lebanon warned to curb guerrillas

David Hirst in Beirut and Derek Brown in Naqurah, south Lebanon

ISRAELI planes and gunboats striking at Hizbullah targets across a broad area of Lebanon, yesterday bombarded Beirut for the first time in 13 years.

Four people, including a Lebanese soldier, were reported killed and several wounded in attacks on Beirut, the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley, the Hizbullah stronghold of Idim al-Tuffah in south Lebanon, the coastal road between Beirut and Sidon, and Tyre.

The raids are seen here as direct outcome of last month's Sharm al-Sheikh summit, where Middle Eastern and Western leaders forged a "coalition against terror". They could herald an escalation in the war of attrition which Iranian-backed Hizbullah guerrillas have been waging with growing success against the Israeli army in occupied south Lebanon.

The Israeli government spokesman, Uri Dromi, said Israel would "chase [Hizbullah] everywhere. We want to drive home the message to the Lebanese and whoever helps Hizbullah that going on with this will be very costly and painful."

Israel's northern front commander, Major-General Amiram Levine, said the present operation would last several days at least.

The raids are a challenge to Syria. Israel's deputy defence minister, Ori Orr, said they were intended to show the Lebanese government that Damascus could not protect it and there would be "other signals". Damascus Radio said the raids would have "severe repercussions" on the badly faltering peace process.

Lebanon's billionaire prime minister, Rafik al-Hariri, conceded that the country was defenceless against Israel's air raids: "We don't have the forces to stop them. But this will not solve the problem... It will only create more military operations and this vicious circle will continue. If they are looking for a solution, the solution is to withdraw from Lebanese territory," he said.

Yesterday's Israeli raids followed Hizbullah shelling on Wednesday that killed an Israeli soldier in south Lebanon and wounded three. On Tuesday Hizbullah fired Katyusha rockets at northern Israel which wounded 36 people. It said the barrages were in revenge for a bomb it blamed on Israel that killed a boy in a south Lebanese village.

At mid-morning, Beirut residents saw three Apache helicopter gunships flying high over the capital releasing thermal balloons to ward off anti-aircraft missiles. They fired five or six missiles into the Harat Hreik district of the "southern suburbs" the vast, mainly Shi'ite slum and Hiz-

ullah stronghold, which lies beyond the writ of the Lebanese and Syrian armies.

Israel said the target was Hizbullah's "primary operational headquarters" which planned and co-ordinated "terrorist" attacks on northern Israeli towns and villages. It said the area was "outside the domain of the Lebanese government", which was "incapable of imposing its sovereignty to prevent attacks against Israel, perpetrated by Hizbullah, which operates with the encouragement of a foreign state — Iran."

Hizbullah militiamen sealed off the area. Reports said that missiles badly damaged a building next-door to one housing the Hizbullah's Shoura, or Consultative Council. A man aged 60 was killed, and two other civilians were wounded. Hizbullah cautioned that any, have not been announced.

Beirut airport, which is nearby, was closed for an hour. Residents of the southern suburbs took to their basements, but otherwise life in the city went on normally.

A fifth attack, two civilians were reported killed and four wounded at Jibe, on the coastal road north of Sidon, when Israeli gunboats opened fire on their cars.

A spokesman for the 6,000-strong Unifil buffer force in south Lebanon said its commander had delivered a "strong protest" to the Israelis. Israel had notified Unifil of its plans for an attack the night before.

Had old days, page 6; Leader comment, page 8

Euthanasia law triggers rush to outback by terminally ill

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S pioneering voluntary euthanasia legislation is attracting terminally ill patients to the outback, a medical group said yesterday.

The Voluntary Euthanasia Network claimed the world's first law to permit medically assisted suicide had brought at least 10 people to the Northern Territory even though does not come into effect until July 1. Spokesman Dr Phillip Nitschke said three had already died in the territory's capital, Darwin, about 2,000 miles north of Sydney, waiting for the bill to become law.

The new law, believed to be the first enacted to allow doctors to give lethal injections to patients, was passed by the small territory's government in February after a long debate. Yesterday the government announced the start date.

The health services minister, Fred Finch, warned the terminally ill from other states against making the long trip to Darwin unless they fulfilled all the prerequisites. Under the Rights of the Terminally Ill Act the consent of two doctors, with a history of treating the patient, is required.

"This is a very sad day," said Margaret Tighe, chairwoman of Australia's Right to Life Association. "We will see people travelling up here to die. It will become a form of one-way tourism."

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A television audience that had never previously been exposed to new music of anything but the most anodyne kind was confronted with an example of Britain's leading composer at his most gritty and uncompromising, slap bang in the middle of the musical establishment's most sacred rite.

Andrew Clements on Harrison Birtwhistle

Review page 12

alone!

to teach in y Schools ough re study

More young men opt to live with parents

James Meikle
Community Affairs Editor

FAMILY life is changing in thousands of homes as more young men choose to remain living with their parents rather than flee the nest for marriage, cohabitation or independence.

Experts yesterday said that while this could lead to rises in family tension and even violence, it may improve relationships by giving children the chance to see their parents as independent adults rather than just as parents.

The Survey of English Housing, based on interviews with 20,000 households and published by the Office for National Statistics, shows significant rises over the past four years in the proportion of adults aged between 20 and 34 staying put. There were fewer young couples forming households, while figures for under-35s opting for a single life remained static.

This may be partly a reflection of the recession and poor private housing prospects in the early 1990s — the number of young adults owning homes also fell in the same period while those renting privately rose. But the trend towards later marriage may also be an important factor.

Well over half of men aged 20-24 live with their parents, as do nearly a quarter of men aged 25-29. Four in 10 of students — who traditionally went away to college — live with their parents.

Unemployment is higher among under-30s living away from home than among those with their parents. The report says: "Unemployment did not, on this evidence, force men and women at these ages to give up independent living and return to their parents. Having a full-time job was not a necessary precondition for living independently."

Alan Cooklin, a consultant in family psychiatry and an academic at University College, London, said: "In our culture we tend to think of

maleness and adulthood in terms of separation, particularly in moving away from home and mother.

"You tend now to get more problems and more potential for violence, between mothers and sons particularly. I see a significant number of these."

Relate, the marriage guidance organisation, said it had dealt with many couples for whom the departure of children had been "quite a shock" as they discovered they needed serious work on their own relationship.

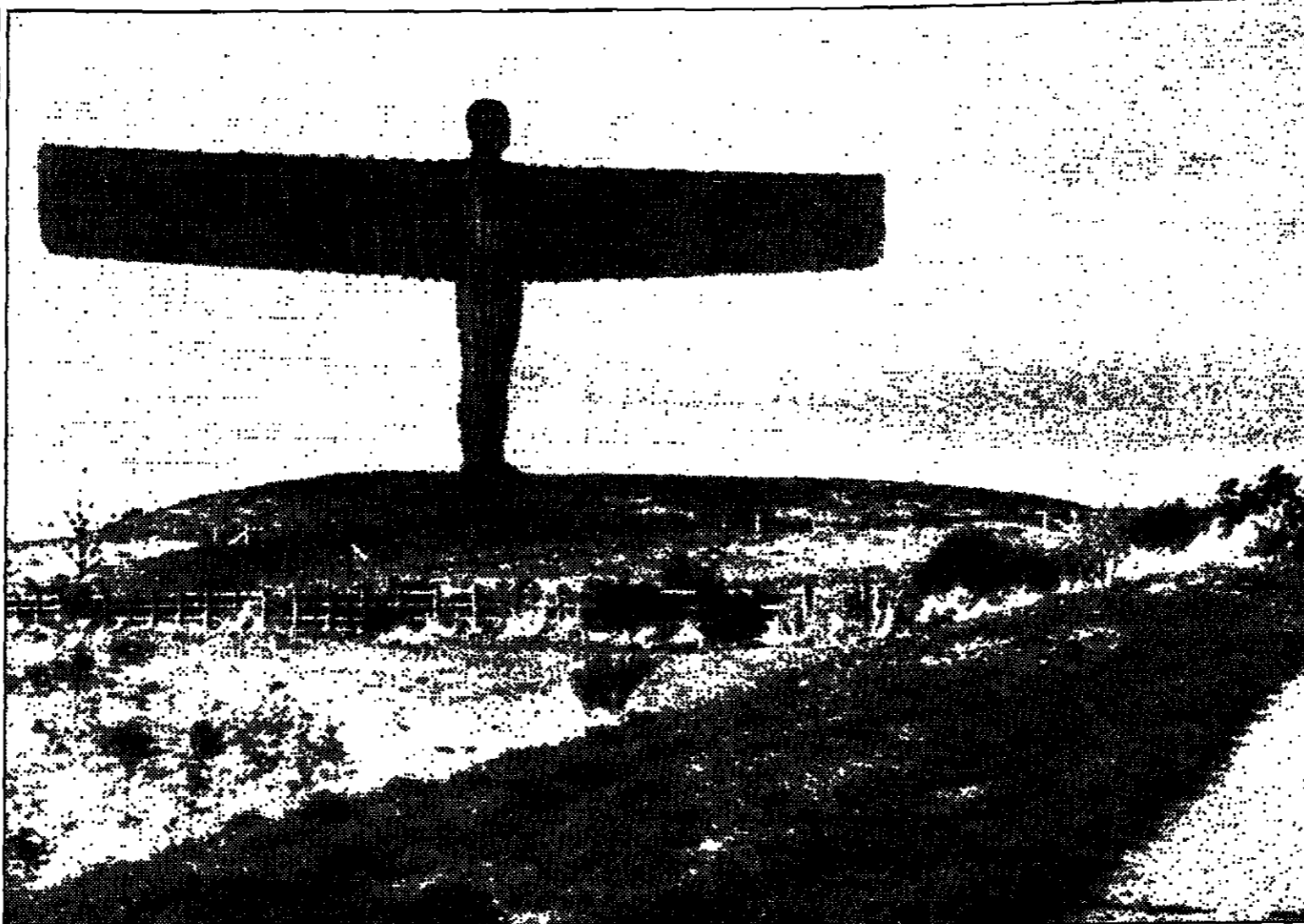
Julia Cole, Relate's press officer, said there may be gains in having children around for longer "after the storm of teenage tantrums", allowing all those involved to see the other as independent adults rather than mothers, fathers, sons or daughters.

Adult offspring should not expect parents to continue to clean up, do the washing and cook the whole time. "I can predict situations where there may be rows over that. But parents should allow them to behave as adults in a family home. You may be pleased if they are being responsible by doing the washing up but less so by someone expressing adulthood by coming home at four o'clock and making a lot of noise."

Other experts said yesterday the stay-at-home trend among younger unmarried people would be unlikely to significantly affect government projections that another 4.4 million homes would be needed over the next 20 years. The explosion in older people living alone after divorce or their partner's death was likely to continue.

One other finding could provide fresh ammunition for opponents of new housing benefit restrictions on unemployed people aged under 25. The report said the benefit was not a factor in encouraging young single people to leave home for private accommodation. Even those entitled to it, often did not claim.

Housing in England 1994/5, HMSO, £30.



A photomontage, above, suggests how the Angel of the North would appear if placed by the A1 near Gateshead and, below, Gormley's sculpture

Sculpture of angel to rise before doubting Geordies

Michael Ellison
Arts Correspondent

TEN years after a city on the Tyne thought it was being lumbered with a white elephant, it was rewarded yesterday with £584,000 of lottery money for a 65ft statue of a dark angel overlooking one of the country's busiest roads.

The doubters said in 1986 that MetroCentre in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, home to 350 shops, would never work in the recession-hit North-east.

But last year it was judged the most successful retail development in Britain.

And yesterday Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, which made the lottery grant, said people would learn to love the 100-tonne Angel of the North, even though a petition of 4,000 was raised against it and 83 per cent of people in a telephone poll said they would prefer the A1 western bypass to remain unadorned by the work of the Turner prize-winning artist Anthony Gormley.

"I am reminded of the history of the Eiffel Tower," said Lord Gowrie. "I think a lot of Parisians were against it. They thought it an ugly monstrosity, but it may be very interesting to hear

their views now. I believe it [the angel] will become the great visual symbol of the North of England, welcoming visitors from the south."

Gormley's angel was commissioned by Gateshead council and has a 169ft wingspan, almost the same as a jumbo jet.

It is likely to be in place at a total cost of £800,000 this time next year.

Apart from National Lottery money, the project has received £150,000 from the European Regional Development Fund and £45,000 from Northern Arts.

Jonathan Wallace, one of the council's 14 Liberal Democrat members, said: "To award such a huge sum of money for what is basically a pile of junk is obscene."

"I despair for the people who will have this statue stuck on their doorsteps."

Martin Callanan, the only Tory member, said: "It is ruining a piece of nice countryside."

He added: "One problem is it is not stuck in an art gallery where people can view it if they wish. It is so prominent you can't help but notice it."

"Everybody can see it whether they like it or not."

Gormley, famous for cast-iron moulds of his own body and Field, thousands of small terracotta figures,

said: "I hope it does provoke strong feelings. I'm not surprised at the controversy; it's quite normal."

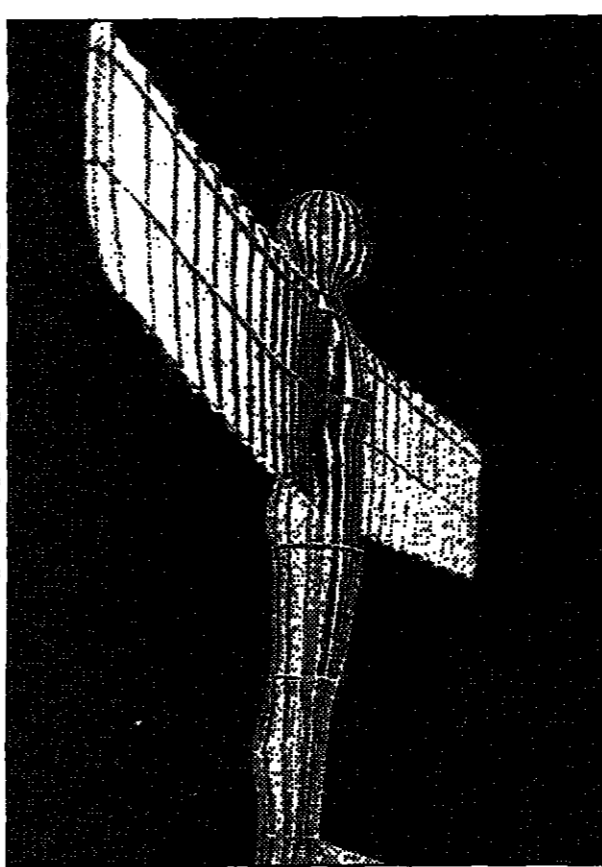
He added: "When it's up, people will have a look and then make their minds up."

"What's great is that we can do it, because at times it has seemed uncertain that we would be able to do so."

"There are only a couple of councillors objecting, but they seem very vocal."

The sculpture is costing £350,000 to make and put up, but landscaping, road improvements and work to stabilise the site will also provide £450,000 of work for specialist, local companies.

The angel, considered the most notable piece of engineering in the area since the Tyne bridge was opened in 1928, will be Britain's tallest sculpture and will be seen by 33 million people a year.



'Rogue royal' romance on rocks

Vivek Chaudhary

THE most maverick and, some would say, most modest member of the Royal Family yesterday announced that she has separated from her husband.

Marina Mowatt, the daughter of Princess Alexandra, the Queen's first cousin, and Sir Angus Ogilvy, sparked considerable controversy when she married freelance photographer Paul Mowatt in 1990 — shortly after becoming pregnant.

In a newspaper article Ms Mowatt — 28th in line to the throne — then accused her parents of trying to persuade her to have an abortion or a "quickie" marriage when they discovered she was pregnant.

But the wedding was a far cry from the usual royal bash: Marina's parents were the only royals to attend; the bride wore black; and the couple settled down to married life in a semi-detached in Twickenham, south-west London.

The couple's first child, Zenouska, was born in May 1990, 3½ months after the wedding. A second child, Christian, was born in 1993.

A statement by solicitors Max Bittel Greene issued on behalf of Marina and Paul, both aged 32, blamed the separation on long-standing "marital difficulties" and stressed that no one else was involved.

It said: "It is with great sadness that Marina and Paul Mowatt today announced that they have separated, having been experiencing marital difficulties for some time."

"No one else is involved. Both Marina and Paul are very sad that this situation has been reached and both are now intent that the interests of their children must be paramount."

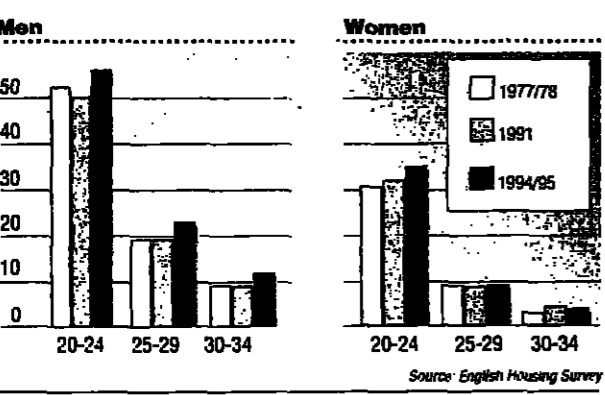
"This is a private matter and for the sake of the children, Marina and Paul wish to avoid unnecessary publicity which might upset the children."

A spokesman for Princess Alexandra said: "Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus are sad to learn of what has happened."

"Obviously it's a private matter for Marina and her husband but Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus will of course do everything they can to help their daughter and her young family at this difficult time."

Home comforts?

Percentage of men and women still living with their parents.



Source: English Housing Survey

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Trust in £4m effort to save last refuge of red squirrel

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

THE red squirrel's last refuge in southern England is being washed away and the National Trust is to dump thousands of tonnes of rock in the sea in an effort to save the threatened rodents.

The jetty and a row of cottages on Brownsea Island in Poole harbour, Dorset, are in imminent danger after the sea wall collapsed at the weekend after being undermined by strong tides which have been eroding the 500-acre island more every year.

Barry Guest, the trust's property manager for the island, said: "In recent years we have been getting short, vicious storms which can do tremendous damage. We only need one force 10 gale and anything could happen."

Brownsea Island is visited by 100,000 people a year who take the five-minute ferry from the mainland before touring the woods to see some of the large colony of red squirrels which has been protected against grey squirrels dominating the mainland.

The trust is to place 10,000 tonnes of boulders beneath the sea wall and jetty to protect the island from being scoured away. The death of harbour reed beds due to pollution and dredging for ferries is believed to have increased the effect of the tide.

The remedial work must be completed by September, when Mr Guest fears the cottages may be lost in a winter of bad weather.

Emergency funds are being used to pay for the work but the trust is asking supporters to buy one tonne boulders at £30 each to help raise the £250,000 cost.

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Murals rewrite city's history

Martyn Hales

MANCHESTER is restoring the most picturesque records of its 2,000-year history. The murals of Ford Madox-Brown were commissioned last century after the city fathers decided Manchester could profit from some respectable heritage, said Brian Cardy, who is leading the conservators' team. "Manchester was Cotomanopolis, the centre of their trade, and they wanted to present the city as steeped in history; some of it rather spurious."

Anxiety was expressed about the condition of Madox-Brown's depiction of the baptism of King Edwy about 15 years after he completed the work in Manchester Town Hall at the end of the century. "Edwy was not actually baptised in Manchester; it was possibly Durham or York. Madox-Brown has obviously interpreted the idea," said Mr Cardy. Other interpretations included using members of the Boddings brewing dynasty as models for devout courtiers.

The team is working inch by inch with organic solvents and scalpels.



Artistic surgery... Conservator Brian Cardy working on the Ford Madox-Brown murals at Manchester town hall

PHOTOGRAPH: DENIS THORPE

Shut care homes, says minister

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A HEALTH minister last night told local authorities to close old people's homes to save money as a survey indicated that £125 million cuts are being made in social services budgets.

John Horam, junior health minister, said authorities should "not miss the opportunity to cut back on bureaucracy and to close care homes owned by the council where the services can be provided with better value by the independent sector".

The number of residential homes run by local authorities has fallen sharply in recent years. Under the community care system, home residents are eligible for an allowance of £54 a week, or £60 in London, only if they are in private or voluntary establishments.

However, latest figures show that 60,000 of the 95,500 state-supported residents of care homes in England are in local authority premises.

Mr Horam was responding to a survey by the Association of Directors of Social Services of 76 social services departments in England and Wales - some 70 per cent of the total. The association extrapolates that cuts totalling £135 million have been imposed this month on social services budgets for 1996/97.

Tad Kubiss, the association's president, said: "Our capacity to respond to rapidly increasing demands and needs has reached a critical point."

The survey found that 20 of 22 metropolitan authorities were making cuts, as were 20 of 29 shire counties, eight of 13 London boroughs, two of

six new unitary authorities and five of six Welsh councils. Forty of the total 76 were raising charges for services.

The bigger cuts include 10 per cent (£7.3 million) by Suffolk, 7.5 per cent (£10.3 million) by Leeds, 6.8 per cent (£2.2 million) by Calderdale in West Yorkshire, 6.5 per cent (£3.6 million) by Wirral and 6.5 per cent (£1.6 million) by North and Fort Tully.

Mr Kubiss, social services director of Cambridgeshire, said the findings had proved the association's predictions last autumn when the Government announced this year's local authority grants. "Unless there is decisive action next year to repair the damage done to the fabric of social services by years of accumulating levels of cut-backs, our ability to protect the people we are statutorily obliged to protect and nurture will be put seriously at risk."

The association says that while social services received an overall 6.9 per cent rise in grant, all but 0.9 per cent was in respect of planned transfer of resources from social security under community care.

The Department of Health claims the total rise in funding was 8 per cent, including almost £85 million given to compensate for increased capital allowances for care home residents.

Mr Horam branded the association's survey "a record of dire predictions rather than a realistic assessment of resources". Similar warnings had been made in previous years, but budgets had proved adequate.

"It is for councils to decide their priorities and to use resources effectively to deliver quality social services. They should be ready to scrutinise their spending to eliminate waste," he said.

Young becoming 'dunces of Europe'

John Carvel, Education Editor

BRITISH youngsters are on the way to becoming the dunces of Europe, local authority leaders warned yesterday after hearing evidence from the careers service that the proportion of 16-year-olds dropping out of education rose last year for the first time in recent record.

A survey of 600,000 young people ending compulsory education after passing their sixteenth birthdays showed that only 67.5 per cent stayed on full-time courses at school or college, compared with 68.1 per cent in 1994.

This is the first drop since the careers service started collecting comprehensive data seven years ago, raising doubts that the Government's targets for producing a more qualified workforce by the year 2000 can be achieved. The percentage staying on

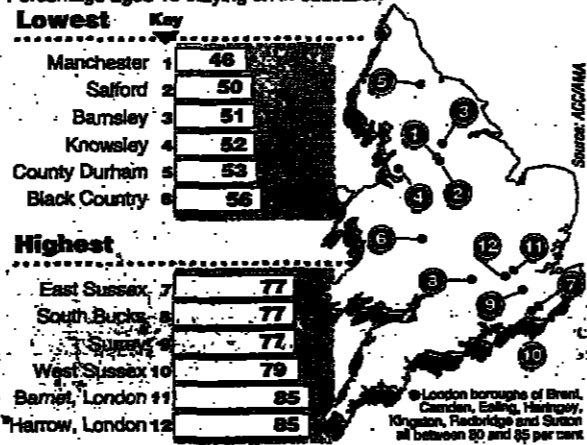
in any form of education - including part-time courses, youth training programmes and employment - also fell for the first time from 83 per cent to 81 per cent. "There is some evidence... that a small but growing number of young people are either opting out of the recognised education, training and employment market, or at least are deferring entry to it," said the report by the UK Heads of Careers Services, published by the local authority associations.

Graham Lane, education chairman of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said the figures were the most disturbing educational indicators for many years.

"They show we are heading to become the dunces of Europe. Britain has one of the poorest records in the EU for young people staying in education after 15 and going on to gain appropriate qualifications. As long as the staying-on rates were rising, we could

Staying on

Percentage aged 16 staying on in education



at least claim to be making some improvements, but now even that glimmer of hope has been extinguished. Young people were badly served by recent changes in

post-16 education which led to unhealthy competition between sixth forms and "privatised" colleges of further education. Sir Ron Dearing's recent reform proposals did

not go far enough to encourage staying on by integrating academic and vocational qualifications, he said.

The survey showed big regional variations in the drop-out rate. In northern England 57 per cent continued in education, 19 per cent had youth training, 6 per cent got a job, 10 per cent were unemployed and 8 per cent were untraceable. In south-east England 75 per cent continued in education, 5.5 per cent had youth training, 8 per cent had a job, 6 per cent were unemployed, and 6.5 per cent were untraceable.

The lowest staying-on rate was 46 per cent in Manchester, which compared with 85 per cent who stayed in education in the London boroughs of Barnet and Harrow.

The survey found:
 □ a decline in the percentage of young people entering youth training;
 □ an increase in the percentage unemployed or not available for work;

□ an increase in numbers of 16-year-olds, which tended to mask the reduction in the percentage staying in education;
 □ much greater competition between colleges and schools with "increasingly aggressive marketing techniques" being used to attract students.

Alan Parker, the AMA's education officer, said the experts were uncertain why staying-on rates had started to fall. In the 1960s and 1970s young people often left school in a recession to chase for the few jobs available. In the 1980s and early 1990s they increasingly stayed at school to better their eventual prospects.

"We felt we were winning the battle for hearts and minds. Now we fear young people may be responding to a general malaise of hopelessness... given the higher rates of unemployment," he said.

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'Dad's army' under fire

Labour plan to woo executives into teaching 'won't solve crisis'

Donald MacLeod, Education Correspondent

LABOUR'S plans for a "dad's army" of middle-aged executives to enter teaching would do little to solve a looming shortage in the classroom, headteachers said yesterday.

A row also erupted over the cost of proposals from David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, to give staff a term's sabbatical leave after 15 years' service, as part of a 10-point programme to raise the status of the profession.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers gave Mr Blunkett's ideas a warm reception at its annual conference in Glasgow. But he was attacked by James Peice, the

education minister, who said the scheme would cost £5 million if the estimated 240,000 teachers with 15 years' experience took advantage of it. "Is this money to come from school budgets or is this another example of Labour not thinking things through?"

Sabbatical leave of between a term and a year to allow teachers to refresh their knowledge or work in industry would have to be phased in and could be met from existing training funds, Mr Blunkett said. Labour sources dismissed the government figures and said part of the cost would be met from business sponsorship.

Mr Blunkett told the conference that executives in their 40s and 50s considering a career change should be encouraged to go into teaching

using training programmes modelled on Open University courses. The funding formula for schools would be changed to end the present incentive to recruit younger, less expensive teachers.

John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads' Association, said it would be better to invest in young people with a full teaching career before them. "This will not solve the huge teacher shortage that is coming in the next two or three years. We have to create a teaching force that encourages the best young graduates to come into teaching."

The Government's Teacher Training Agency has estimated the number of trainees will have to be increased from 20,000 to 30,000 a year. Mr Blunkett pledged to reform the Office for Standards in Education inspection system. Schools would receive support and advice and "not just an arm's length critique".

Variations mar degrees

Marking system could lose its lustre without standardisation

Chris Mihill

THE degree system is in danger of falling into disrepute because of wide discrepancies in the awarding of degrees among universities, a researcher said yesterday.

The steadily increasing number of students obtaining good degrees could not be explained by better teaching or brighter undergraduates; instead, marking seemed to be getting easier.

Stephen Newstead, president of the British Psychological Society, said consideration should be given to setting up a national degree examination rather than universities granting their own awards. Examiners

should also receive more formal training to iron out inconsistencies among different markers.

In his presidential address to the annual BPS conference in Brighton, East Sussex, Professor Newstead said there were serious flaws in the process of assessment at universities. Mr Newstead, head of psychology at Plymouth University, has carried out research into the consistency of examination marking and has looked at other studies in the field.

He gave six examination essays from psychology students to 14 experienced examiners and found great variations in marks. In one case the same student was awarded a First by one ex-

aminer and a Third by another.

Mr Newstead said there was evidence some examiners were biased against girls and other studies suggested that perhaps 10 per cent of students cheated in examinations.

Steps could be taken locally to improve marking procedures with the introduction of blind marking so the examiners did not know the students and more rigid marking schemes giving specimen answers. There also needed to be better training of examiners and a wider use of external examiners.

There was also a case for establishing national degree examinations just as there are national examinations at school level. "Without standardisation the degree system in this country is in danger of falling into disrepute," he said.

Ravers to make Brighton rock

Alex Bellos reports on a planned British version of the Berlin Love Parade

BRITAIN is likely to host its own version of the Berlin Love Parade, an event inspired by British rave culture which has since become the largest dance music festival in the world.

From small beginnings in 1989, when 150 Berliners made their way down the city's Kurfurstendamm, the Love Parade has become an annual spectacle attracting up to 500,000 people. Revellers dance behind about 40 floats blaring out hardcore techno music.

More than just a street carnival, it is seen by many Germans as a loud political statement proclaiming solidarity between young Europeans. The music has no lyrics and so there is no language barrier between nationalities.

Britain's equivalent is due to take place in Brighton on July 20.

The Dance Parade will have half the amount of floats and plans to cater initially for 6,000 people.

The organisers have submitted plans to Brighton council, which is keen to be associated with such an event, although final permission will be given after the local elections on May 2.

Ian Duncan, chairman of Brighton council's arts and leisure committee, said: "This is a very exciting proposal

and would obviously add to Brighton's range of attractions and its reputation as a major centre of youth culture and entertainment.

"I hope that no Brighton stick-in-the-muds or spoilsports will be opposing this innovative suggestion."

A UK dance parade brings full circle a youth culture that is widely seen to have started here in the late 1980s with acid house parties, but was curbed by anti-rave legislation.

Christian Vogel, an English DJ who has played the Love Parade, said: "The Germans really value English culture and English music. A lot of them do believe that dance culture began in the UK."

Kevin Grimshaw, a dance parade co-ordinator, said he got the idea after hitch-hiking to Berlin last year. "The atmosphere was truly enlightening. When people dance together they drop all pretensions and come together in mutual harmony and respect."

"I thought 'why did I have to go all the way there when the dance culture here is so vibrant and progressive?'"

Brighton already hosts several other parades during the year and the dance parade's licence is thought to depend on whether the highways authority agrees to another day of disruption.

Tribe Gathering - dubbed as dance music's Woodstock - is appealing against Chertwell district council's refusal to grant it a licence. The day-long event is due to start on May 4 at Ormoor Park, Oxfordshire. All 30,000 tickets have been sold.

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Lebanon in firing line Hizbullah more daring UN powerless Golan deal hopes fade

Return to the bad old days

David Hirst in Beirut reports on the larger significance of the Israeli raids

TO ENTER the Dahiya, Beirut's southern suburb, yesterday was like going back in time to the civil war, to the reign of the militias which waged it in this teeming, impoverished, Shiite bastion, armed men of the Iranian-backed Hizbullah were out in force, standing in doorways, Kalashnikovs at the ready, controlling traffic and preventing access to the Hizbullah offices which three Israeli helicopters had just struck with air-to-ground missiles. There was only a sprinkling of Syrian and Lebanese soldiers in sight.

If Hizbullah's members are classified as "terrorists", then the Dahiya is its vast, untrammelled haven. It was

just such havens which the international "anti-terrorist coalition", established after last month's summit in Sharm al-Sheikh, had made it its business to eradicate, or at least the Israelis and Americans had.

In fact, Lebanon had always expected that it would be the first external target of a stepped-up "anti-terrorist" campaign, and of a growing need by Shimon Peres, the Israeli prime minister, to appease public opinion thirsty for retribution.

The assault on the capital was small, symbolic almost. Only one man died in Beirut. But as the first of its kind for 13 years, it was a big escalation, especially when taken with another air raid on a

Hizbullah depot near the Syrian frontier, and a helicopter attack — also the first of its kind — on a Lebanese army position in Tyre.

Hizbullah has given the Israelis more than the usual provocation recently. It insists it has not been violating the United States-brokered "understanding" that ended Israel's last great incursion into Lebanon, Operation Accountability, of summer 1983.

Under that "understanding", Hizbullah agreed not to launch missiles into northern Israel, and Israel agreed not to strike civilian targets beyond its "security zone" in south Lebanon.

But Hizbullah attacks have been growing in intensity, daring and sophistication. In addition to its routine, long-range shelling, its men have gone on raids deep into the "security zone". And with its Iranian support, but, very

News in brief

France 'shaken by wave of racism'

A United Nations investigator said yesterday that France was being shaken by "a wave of xenophobia and racism", belying its image as the cradle of human rights.

Reporting to the UN Human Rights Commission, Maurice Glele-Ahanhanzo said the problems of foreigners in France had been made worse by anti-immigration laws passed in 1993 which must now be amended.

But he added that parties across the political spectrum were to blame for encouraging racism by using the issue of immigration as an easy vote-winner.

Mr Glele-Ahanhanzo, a human rights expert from Benin, is the commission's "special rapporteur" on racism. The report, written after a 10-day fact-finding mission, examines attacks against immigrants, which are especially common against those from France's former colonies in North Africa.

France's population of 58 million includes at least 4 million legal foreign residents and up to one million others believed to be there illegally.

A survey in 1994 showed that 62 per cent of French people accept that they have racist attitudes. In the same poll, 86 per cent said they had witnessed racist taunts, with North Africans most often the victims. — *Reuters, Geneva.*

New trouble for Tyson

MIKE TYSON is alleged to have bitten a woman on the cheek and lip during a kiss, before thrusting her away in a Chicago night club, the incident which provoked the woman to file charges of sexual battery which could send him back to jail for breaking the terms of his probation.

The Indiana probation service said yesterday they had "no immediate plans" to interview the world heavyweight boxing champion about the latest allegation, pending a decision by Chicago police and prosecutors whether to file formal charges. Nightclub staff and bodyguards have denied the woman's story. — *Martin Walker, Washington.*

Electoral 'fraud' in Quebec

THERE is evidence of electoral fraud at the count in Quebec's referendum on independence, according to an independent study.

Ballots which were in favour of the No side — voting against separation — were rejected, unnecessarily in those polling stations where their numbers were going long straight.

The report's author and Montreal lawyer, Andrew Orkin, who also supervised the South African election, said: "This is huge evidence of either bias or manipulation of fraud. The people who did the rejecting were all appointed by the Yes side."

The governing Parti Quebecois has not commented; it is waiting for a report by Quebec's chief electoral officer, to be published later this month. — *Claire Trevena, Toronto.*

Middle East nuclear appeal

PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, opening a ceremony at which up to 53 African states will declare their continent free of nuclear weapons, called yesterday for a similar zone in the Middle East.

"I urge... all the states of the Middle East to take a similar step between them so that we can protect this region from the dangers of these lethal weapons," Mr Mubarak said.

Israel is widely believed to have nuclear weapons. It says it will discuss its nuclear programme only after peace throughout the region.

Mr Mubarak also urged the five declared nuclear states — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — to speed up progress towards full nuclear disarmament. — *Reuters, Cairo.*

Hijacker rejects Israeli terms

A PLO hijacker, Leifa Khaled, said in Amman yesterday that she rejected Israeli terms for her return to Palestinian self-rule areas to attend a meeting on amending the PLO charter calling for the destruction of the Jewish state.

Ms Khaled, a member of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, and a PLO faction that opposes President Yasser Arafat's peace deal with Israel, said she would still leave Amman for self-rule areas on Sunday. "The Israelis are still my enemies," she said.

Israel said in February it would let Ms Khaled and 152 others, including some of the staunchest anti-Israeli guerrillas, return to attend the PNC meeting and settle in the West Bank or Gaza with their families if they wish.

Ms Khaled said she would not agree to Israeli demands that she sign a paper denouncing "terrorism", backing the Middle East peace process and condemning attacks by Muslim bombers that killed 56 people in Israel. "I will refuse to sign any paper, even if this means them sending me back. I will not beg them to enter, even if I am really longing to enter!" — *Reuters, Amman.*

Indiscriminate selection

THE University of California regent who championed the abolition last year of positive discrimination was himself pushing two students for admission, it has been disclosed.

The involvement of Ward Connerly, a property consultant in Sacramento and a black man, intensifies the scandal. A Los Angeles Times investigation has revealed that hundreds of students, often the sons and daughters of politicians, state officials, and university donors, gained entry to the nine-campus university by the back door.

Mr Connerly, a conservative who led the board of regents' fight against affirmative action, denying favourable consideration of minority groups and women, now says he believes VIP admissions should be abolished. But his participation will fuel the campaign expected over the issue in this year's general election. — *Christopher Reed, Los Angeles.*

Andreotti murder trial starts

GULIO ANDREOTTI, the former prime minister of Italy accused of alleged ties to the Mafia, went on trial in Perugia yesterday for the murder of a journalist in 1979.

Mr Andreotti (bottom right) is accused with Pippo Calò (escorted by policemen) of complicity with the Mafia in the killing of Mino Pecorelli, editor of a political scandal sheet who reputedly had compromising secrets about the politician.

Mr Andreotti has denied any part in the killing or any Mafia link. — *Reuters.*

Court rules out boy's name

A SWEDISH court has ruled that the parents of a boy, aged five, broke the law by naming their son Broröccxnnnpocccollmmp rrvccmckcsqbb111116, or Albin for short.

"Unfortunately Broröcc whatever is not a recognised first name in Swedish law, even though the parents promise it is pronounced Albin, which is a perfectly acceptable name," a spokesman at the district court in Halmstad, southern Sweden, said yesterday.

The parents were fined 2440 for failing to give their son a first name, despite arguing that their choice was "a pregnant, expressionist elaboration that we view as an artistic creation," the spokesman said. — *Jon Hanley, Helsinki.*

Israeli attack narrows Clinton's choices

Martin Walker in Washington

AFTER behind-the-scenes American diplomacy had failed to stop Israeli retaliation for the guerrilla rocket attacks from Lebanon, the White House said yesterday it was "urging all sides to exercise restraint and minimise the tension and the violence".

The plea was swiftly answered by Israel's northern front commander, who said the air and artillery strikes against guerrilla targets in Lebanon would continue for several days.

The latest eruptions in Lebanon and the new freeze that has settled over the hopes of an Israeli-Syria peace agreement on the Golan Heights, have left the Clinton administration with little to show for its most sustained foreign policy initiative, the attempt to reach a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

US officials insisted yesterday that "giving up on the peace process is not an option, and would only reward terrorists, extremists and other enemies of peace". But the window of opportunity for

any new US initiative is now perilously narrow, constrained by next month's Israeli elections and by the US presidential elections.

It is constrained also by the different agenda of the main policy-makers in Washington, already complicated by a tradition of personal tensions between the National Security Adviser, Tony Lake, and the Secretary of State, Warren Christopher.

But in an election year, with political fund-raising a prime consideration, President Clinton is not going to offend the pro-Israel lobby in the US by putting serious pressure on the Israeli government.

Moreover, while remaining publicly neutral in the Israeli elections, Mr Clinton's security advisers have urged him to give wide latitude to the Shimon Peres government, rather than increase the chances of victory of the Likud Party.

The main effort of American diplomacy yesterday was to press Syria to use its influence in Lebanon to discourage any escalating reaction to the Israeli attacks.

The US difficulty is that while it can hope to influence

those Middle East governments it recognises, it has no relations with Iran, and little access to the guerrilla organisations like Hizbullah which are backed by Iran. But the anti-Israeli guerrilla groups in Lebanon also depend on Syrian suffering and the failure of US diplomacy to restrain Damascus in recent days has left the US with little leverage to apply on the embattled Israeli government.

The US is now threatened with irrelevance as the regional dynamic takes over, driven by the Israeli elections, by the Hizbullah intransigence, and by Syria's realisation that it is not now likely to recover the Golan Heights this year.

An Arab diplomat said: "Both Israel and the US underestimated the reaction in Syria and in the rest of the Arab world to the news of the defence agreement between Israel and Turkey."

"They may say it is limited to giving Israeli aircraft some rights to train and overfly in Turkish airspace, but to Syria that is bound to look like encirclement. If there was any prospect of Syria coming to terms with Israel, the Turkish agreement ended it."



Seeking safety... A Shi'ite family flee their home in the Bir el-Abed suburb of Beirut yesterday after Israeli helicopter gunships attacked Hizbullah. PHOTOGRAPH: AHMED AZAR

Waiting game

Derek Brown in Naqoura, South Lebanon

IT TOOK about 10 minutes to reach this place along the potholed road from the border; about as long as it took the Israeli jets to make their first return visit to Beirut in 14 years.

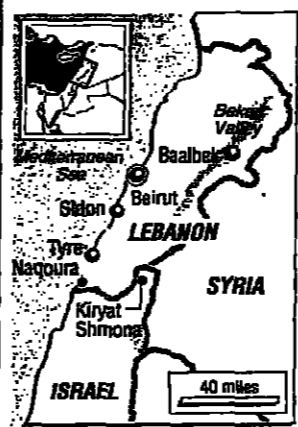
But Naqoura was probably the last place on the minds of Israel's military planners yesterday, as they set about tanking the Lebanese their latest lesson.

This is the headquarters of Unfil, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and the least relevant army in the land.

For more than a decade and a half the multinational troops of Unfil have observed Israel's sporadic ravaging of its northern neighbour. They have also watched the Hizbullah guerrillas inflicting their pinprick attacks on Israel.

Yesterday was the turn of the pinpoint attack, as one Israeli military correspondent was pleased to describe the helicopter strike on a Hizbullah headquarters in a Beirut suburb.

There were other attacks: in the Beka'a valley in eastern Lebanon, on villages to



the north of the occupation zone, and on a Lebanese army position in Tyre.

Unfil did what it is always obliged to do: nothing. For Israel controls Unfil, just as surely as it dictates the rest of life in Lebanon.

The 5,500 men of Unfil could only sit and watch and wait, wait for the next Israeli strike, and wait for the response of Hizbullah. Overhead in the leaden skies, helicopters clattered and warjets boomed their way through the sound barrier.

'Ghost town' demands retaliation

Reporter in Kiryat Simona

THE northern Israeli community of Kiryat Simona resembled a ghost town yesterday as men took to bomb shelters and women and children left for fear of more Hizbullah attacks from Lebanon.

Town officials worked from a bomb shelter to organise the evacuation of women and children on buses from the border town, hit on Tuesday by rockets.

A banner strung across a building site was directed at Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres: "For sale: Ghost town at any price."

Residents held angry demonstrations on Tuesday calling for retaliation against Hizbullah. A spokesman, Yoram Even Tsur, said: "This time we've come to the very end of the policy of restraint."

Attacks 'harm peace' warns Damascus

Reporter in Damascus

SYRIA criticised Israel for launching air strikes against Lebanon yesterday and said the attacks would harm the Middle East peace process.

"What Israel did in Lebanon today has only one name. It is aggression," Syrian state-run radio said about the first raids on Beirut in 14 years.

"This Israeli aggression is not justified by any means. Israel could not present any reason to explain or justify it," the radio said. "Aggression against civilians could never be justified."

Last month Israel suspended the final round of peace talks with Syria and recalled its peace team from the United States, after Palestinian suicide bombers in Israel killed 58 people.

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The Guardian Friday April 12 1996

Centre-left leader Romano Prodi seeks victory in next week's polls with his no-nonsense message, writes John Hooper in Vicenza

Professor hopes to win Italy without promises

THE man who hopes to be Italy's next prime minister is sitting in the back of his campaign bus, being hurried from side to side as it swings round corners on the way into Vicenza.

"You know something?" he says. "In the whole of this campaign, I've not been insulted by a single person. Not one." Professor Romano Prodi, the centre-left's candidate in next week's general election, clearly finds this remarkable. But to find someone who would want to say cruel and offensive things to the professor would not be easy, they would need to be the kind of person who enjoys torturing special pupils.

Prof Prodi is nobody's fool. He headed and restructured Italy's giant state holding company, the IRI. His eyes can quickly acquire an assessing glint. But he has a face that could have been moulded from vanilla fudge, and it radiates well-intentioned bonhomie. A more fitting counterpart to the moral cynicism which is the common coin of Italian politics would be hard to imagine. The aim of his campaign has been to emphasise this contrast.

coni is usually seen coming and going in limousines. Prof Prodi travels wherever possible by train or bus.

This bus is admittedly a bit special. The back has been converted into a mini campaign headquarters.

In one half there are desks running down either side, on which have been installed a photocopier, a portable computer, a fax machine and — perhaps most important — a device for turning out strong espresso. In the other half are

yet intensely provincial — like an Italian Hereford, with more cash and far greater claims to fame as the city which houses many of Palladio's finest buildings.

Prof Prodi has come to the Veneto because the signs are that the election will be decided here. It is here that the right's divisions offer the newly united centre-left its best chances of breaking through.

But its flourishing small- and medium-sized businesses, sively for Christian Democracy. The best dressed people in the piazza turn out to be teachers who have always voted for the left. In this respect, the professor faces a more difficult task than he had expected.

Lamberto Dini, who headed the non-party government which has run Italy since Mr Berlusconi's fall, threw his hat in the ring at the last moment. He offers moderate voters what Prof Prodi cannot — a track record in power.

The windows on the high-lety-giglely rooms at the back of the piazza are filled with golden, evening light by the time the professor begins. He has improved greatly as a speaker in the years since he entered politics and has developed a style well attuned to the pronounced cadences of his native Emilia.

He uses it to give a reasoned tour of the principal issues, from tax to Italy's role in Europe. Earlier in the coach he had cheerfully agreed with the recurrent criticism of his campaign — that it lacked the clarity of Mr Berlusconi's. "If you want to be clear, and untruthful, it is perfectly possible," he riposted.

But in a speech lasting well over half an hour, it is not merely the absence of trite pledges or facile sound bites that is striking. It is also the lack of a single specific undertaking. He does not promise to do this or that to the economy, build more schools or hospitals, or even bring down unemployment by a set percentage.

One leaves convinced that he is a decent man with a clear vision of the challenges facing Italy, but less than knowledgeable about what he would actually do if handed the power he seeks.

'You know, in the whole of this campaign, I've not been insulted by a single person. Not one'

'I wanted to be a bit different in a world homogenised by television'

sofas, a television and a video.

As we trundle into the Piazza dei Signori, scattering pigeons and pedestrians, one of the professor's aides casts an experienced eye over the waiting crowd. "Two thousand," he says without much enthusiasm.

It is notoriously difficult to read a significance into the size of the turnout, but one cannot but wonder whether, with 10 days to go before polling, Prof Prodi's time is best spent addressing a half-empty square.

His strategy of taking his politics to the people was certainly well suited to getting himself established as much as the left. The only thing red in its emblem is the apostrophe of *L'Ulivo*. Yet there is not much sign of the electors who once in this area voted mas-

like the one that Prof Prodi has just visited (which makes gear cogs for racing bikes) have given the Veneto virtually full employment. That makes it difficult to raise for a politician whose implicit promise is to create jobs, by means of a thorough restructuring of the economy.

The people gathered to hear the professor are mainly the kind who, in Britain, would read the *Guardian* vote Labour and John Greenpeace, but who in Italy have traditionally backed the Communists. Several have arrived on bikes.

Prof Prodi's Olive Tree Alliance is, however, meant to attract the centre as much as the left. The only thing red in its emblem is the apostrophe of *L'Ulivo*. Yet there is not much sign of the electors who once in this area voted mas-



Romano Prodi... A more striking contrast to the cynicism of Italian politics would be hard to find PHOTOGRAPH BY S. GRANATI

Slovak law 'threatens human rights'

Joe Cook in Prague

BOWING to international criticism, President Michal Kovac of Slovakia refused to sign draft legislation this week that would have enabled the nationalist government of the prime minister, Vladimir Meciar, to imprison political opponents.

A Western diplomat in the capital Bratislava said the legislation posed a "threat to human rights". Mr Kovac returned the "defence of the republic" laws to parliament for further discussion after describing them as "undemocratic and disturbing". He said they contradicted the constitution, European pacts on human rights, and would hinder Slovakia bid to join the European Union.

The loosely defined set of laws would have made it possible to ban public gatherings and curtail the expression of political opinion.

They were drafted to appease the ultra-nationalist wing of Mr Meciar's increasingly authoritarian government. The nationalists had made their support for ratification of a bilateral treaty with Hungary conditional on the new laws.

Successful implementation of the Slovak-Hungarian treaty is seen as an essential part of both countries' efforts to join the EU and Nato. Hungary's parliament ratified the treaty more than a year ago.

Observers suggest that the ambiguous wording of the law is implicitly intended to curtail the political activities of Slovakia's 570,000-strong ethnic-Hungarian minority, which Slovak nationalists believe is bent on uniting southern Slovakia with Hungary.

Within a day of the laws' passage through parliament, the EU sent a delegation representing the president of Spain, Italy, and Ireland to lodge a formal expression of concern with the Slovak foreign minister, Juraj Schenk.

He said the laws were similar to legislation in Sweden, France, Belgium and Germany — a claim dismissed by those countries.

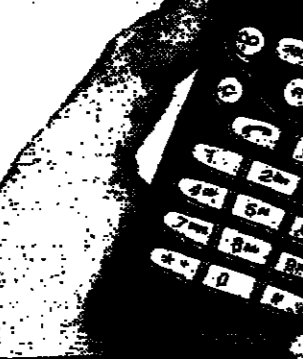
The Austrian chancellor, Franz Vranitzky, after meeting Mr Meciar this week, said the Slovak prime minister may now have the legislation "renegotiated" in parliament before it is returned to Mr Kovac for signing. But under Slovak regulations, the president has no power to return a law that has been passed by parliament a second time.

"The main problem with these laws is that they are very, very broad and open to subjective interpretation," said a Western diplomat in Bratislava. "It potentially opens the door to cases where political opponents [of the government] could be under threat, and it contradicts the spirit of the EU's Copenhagen convention on human rights."

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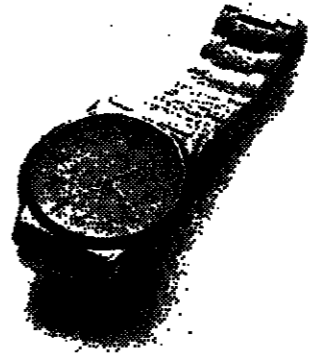
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We bought some smashing fish and chips, shoving on great wads of vinegar and salt and ketchup. We managed to eat quite a few mouthfuls in front of appreciative constituents before schlepping back to Barbara's for a fabulous lunch of olive, bacon and endive salad. Bel Littlejohn

Page 9

How to find a carrot.



To help locate the different types of food on a plate, a blind person can treat the plate like a clock face and place the food on it accordingly. So meat sits at 12 o'clock, potatoes at 6 o'clock and carrots at 9 o'clock.

It's a simple solution to an everyday problem. But have you ever considered how a blind person might iron a shirt or fry an egg? The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) produces everyday items which help visually impaired people carry out tasks sighted people take for granted. We also offer training to help people who have

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Principles and payments

Nolan needs to make quangos accountable

JOHN Maltby could be feeling miffed today. Until yesterday he must have believed he held one of the best-paid public sinecures in the land: £15,000 a year for 10 days work as the chairman of the Dover Harbour Board...

material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

To their credit some new quango members have urged Nolan to end their payments. Members of Training and Enterprise Councils, housing association trustees and grant maintained school governors have all spoken up in support of no fees. But there are other quangos where payment seems appropriate...

Would this be wise? Lord Nolan was right in his first report last year to seek to restore a public service ethic. A succession of parliamentary and press investigations had exposed a catalogue of fraud, mismanagement and sleaze in the public administration of the nation...

Diplomacy: Israeli style

Is it really good judgment to return to bombing Beirut?

ISRAEL, says Prime Minister Shimon Peres, has no policy of "self-restraint", only a policy of "judgment". His statement on the south Lebanon crisis, made just two days before Israeli planes and ships blasted Lebanon and rocketed Beirut yesterday for the first time in 14 years...

Mr Peres, is it really good "judgment" in his terms to reopen the deep sore of Lebanon by killing and wounding its civilians and returning to Beirut? Though these incidents are relatively small in scale, they touch on a very sensitive historical nerve and carry an unsettling risk of escalation.

The birth of a winning streak

How this page helped West Bromwich Albion turn the corner

WHILE HAPPY to join the acclaim for West Bromwich Albion's latest triumph - a 2-1 win at Leicester on Tuesday - we are sorry to see this ancient club's revival since Christmas so widely ascribed to the signing of the talented Dutch midfielder Richard Sneekes from the even more stricken Bolton Wanderers...

salvation, as we modestly pointed out at the time, was the appearance of a kindly and supportive leader in this newspaper, such as five years before had rescued Sheffield United from relegation when all looked lost.



Letters to the Editor
Those big lottery numbers

It takes two to quango - and Sir Brian is the one who's in step

YOUR leader (April 10) about the National Lottery misrepresents the key messages of the National Lottery Yearbook published by the Directory of Social Change. The Yearbook recognises that the lottery has been absorbed with enthusiasm into the daily life of the country...

land and the Heritage Lottery Fund both now have a minimum 10 per cent partnership funding requirement for awards under £100,000, as do the Millennium Commission for their awards scheme.

facts to the contrary. In just two weeks, Camelot has allowed its agents to withhold £875 million to run one computer and about 30,000 outlets. No lottery has ever cost so much.

THE references to PLA Chairman Sir Brian Shaw in your lead article (Nolan: end quango scandal, April 11) are inaccurate and misleading.

In picking on Sir Brian as a "Quango King" you could hardly have chosen a more inappropriate target. Geoffrey Bunnals, Secretary, Port of London Authority, 58-60 St Katharine's Way, London E1 9LB.

On April 1 I announced changes to the lottery rules which will allow the establishment of "talent funds" to provide individual support to talented sports people, and to develop the creative abilities of young people in particular.

Over 3,500 awards have already been made, and the increasing number of awards in the future coupled with the changes to the rules will allow the benefits of the lottery to be felt by people in every community across the country.

Until Peter Davis, or his successor, revises the contract as a service contract, everyone who plays the lottery knows that they are paying on average an extra 6.5 per cent each week to Camelot, a total of £544 million.

YOUR reporters, and possibly Lord Nolan, are moving into curious moral territory in putting the view that quango members should be unpaid and do their work purely in the spirit of public service. Quangos come in all shapes and sizes. For some, payment of board members is clearly inappropriate; for others it is imperative if they are to get the standard of government which they require.

For the size and responsibility of the jobs, it looks as if the Government has done very well for us. Sir Gerald Elliot, Home Street, Edinburgh EH5 6TD.

Our Greer

REMEMBER growing up with Greer Garson (First Lady of the Blitz, April 5). My family knew Mrs Garson and her daughter Eileen Garson (who later used a family name instead of Eileen) very well.

When in the sixth form, they acted in plays like Goldsmith's The Shop to Go. My father and I always came to think that directly-elected mayors are the norm in western Europe.

As the London boroughs, including Lambeth - the home of County Hall, emptied by Thatcher but likely to be used again a few months hence, London, or more accurately the City, has a Lord Mayor.

When in the sixth form, they acted in plays like Goldsmith's The Shop to Go. My father and I always came to think that directly-elected mayors are the norm in western Europe.

The separation of elections for the executive (mayor) and legislature (councillors), as Mr Blair seems to suggest, runs all the risks intrinsic to the presidential system: personal populism, and obstructive conflict between the executive and legislature.

As the London boroughs, including Lambeth - the home of County Hall, emptied by Thatcher but likely to be used again a few months hence, London, or more accurately the City, has a Lord Mayor.

DESPITE the kind personality portrayed on the screen, Greer Garson was the least attractive of the many stars who worked at MGM Epsom. She was conceited, haughty and artificial (including the colour of her hair).

As the London boroughs, including Lambeth - the home of County Hall, emptied by Thatcher but likely to be used again a few months hence, London, or more accurately the City, has a Lord Mayor.

The return of the living dead

YOU have unfortunately taken out of context my comments at a meeting on Ethics and Alternatives in Animal Experimentation in Edinburgh (Professor defends 'living dead' tests, April 8). I did not state that research could take place...

Should a National Ethics Committee, such as the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, be set up to deal with the dilemmas that developments in health-care technology cause?

The point is that some people may make an advance directive to leave their bodies for research in order to help others and perhaps reduce the use of animals in research. If such altruistic donations are found to be acceptable and the patient's wishes are to be respected, how is the medical profession to deal with this criteria?

What safeguards and criteria should be in place: would they be similar to those permitting removal of organs, or the use of foetal tissue in research?

Shhh

WONDERFUL news about the mobile-phone-free carriage, except that it should be the other way round: if all mobile users were assigned to one carriage, they could shout as much as they wished.

As the London boroughs, including Lambeth - the home of County Hall, emptied by Thatcher but likely to be used again a few months hence, London, or more accurately the City, has a Lord Mayor.

A Country Diary

GLoucestershire: Angling is a popular participatory sport. In all its various forms, from fly fishing on fast-running river water or on still lakes, through coarse fishing on a river or canal bank, to sea angling from beach, boat, or rocks it is alleged that the votes in angling add up to more than the votes of those who attend league football matches as spectators.

ago, I was reminded of these matters by the growing conflict between the fishing interest and the bird protection interest as the changing habits of the cormorant bring it into conflict with fishermen on inland waters. The first time I saw a cormorant on Bristol docks I was mildly surprised by the sight of two of them taking off from the waters of the Gloucester-Sharpness canal.

صوتنا من الامم

David Kelsey

The charming chameleon

DAVID KELSEY, who has made his last exit aged 63, could have been a famous actor if his boredom threshold had stretched beyond a three-week run. Instead he focused (in three-year bursts) as a campaigning director who took over ailing regional theatres and saved them from closure before moving on to the next. More of that later.

Kelsey was a maverick. At times he was inspirational and there are countless actors, a minor *Who's Who* of theatreland, who worshipped him as a Svengali. He was also a fantasist and a compulsive liar of such charm and conviction that his close friends took most of anything he said with a pinch of salt. At one time or another, he infuriated everyone. But mostly he was forgiven because Kelsey preferred to enlarge or alter the details of events, it was only out of his creative need to fiddle with the plot.

I first met him 20 years ago when he came to the old Castle Theatre in Farnham to direct *Sonia Dresser* in his own new play, *Game For Two Or More Players*. It was a dire piece. Like most of his outpourings (he wrote all his life on a manual machine and never cut a word), it was unstructured and self-indulgent with flashes of brilliance obscured in the fog. But Kelsey brought new life into that cosy little Surrey theatre. He walked in the door and had the entire staff running about and worshipping at his feet. He was a very funny man and a great raconteur.

Within this creative mayhem, he conjured up on me one of his legendary crushes: a week of mawkish fawning and attempted seduction-by-language that stopped only

when he was told forcefully to get out. But, unlike most, Kelsey easily became a close friend. And most of those closest to him went through the same process where his wild romantic fantasies were converted and adapted to the real world from which he often strayed.

He was born in Hull in 1932 and, according to his unpublished memoirs, started out as a call boy at 16 years old. We know for a fact that he acted in weekly rep at Oldham and Cheltenham in the fifties — because his old friend Frank Middlemass would testify on oath. We also know from photographs and reviews that he toured the world with Harold Lang's innovative *Voyage Theatre Company*; and that he always remembered Lang as his artistic mentor. It was Lang who gave Kelsey the directing bug.

He remained an actor through most of the sixties, with lengthy stints at the Bristol Old Vic and Nottingham Playhouse, working with the likes of Frank Fausser, Stuart Burge and John Schlesinger. "Coca" Kelsey, as they called him then, made the break into directing in 1968 with an appointment as associate at the Glasgow Citizens.

In the early seventies, he saved the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury from threatened closure. A browse through the old programmes tells its own story: *James Fox in School For Scandal*; *Peggy Mount in When We Are Married*; *Fenella Fielding in The Second Mrs Tanqueray*; *Sonia Dresser as Artaxandria in The Seagull* — and, intriguingly, Cleo Laine as Hedda Gabler, her first director role. He was resident director at Liverpool Playhouse in 1976 and the Northcott, Exeter in 1976. The following year he took over as artistic director at the Royal Northampton, another theatre on the verge of collapse. Ever the optimist, he nearly closed the place down by deciding to be the first regional theatre to do *Kennedy's Children* in the main house and filling a disastrous box-office return of 14 per cent.

But already, Kelsey's knack for kicking life into dying theatres was taking shape; and part of that knack involved getting a new team together. While directing the second and last of his dreadful plays at the Northcott, he'd gone into temporary crush mode over Nick Allott, then a young ASM, now the famous international producer of the Cameron Macintosh empire. Kelsey brought Allott to Northampton as general manager and together they carefully and sometimes dangerously brought the theatre back from the brink.

THE TURNING point was a production of Orton's *What The Butler Saw* in which Kelsey, in one of his rare appearances, gave possibly the finest and funniest *Dr Rance* ever seen. He was a natural fast-thinker, blessed with a wonderfully seductive voice. And the Orton/Kelsey combination brought a wickedly electric dynamic to this notoriously difficult play. It packed the theatre: household signs went up for the first time in years; the audience had come back — and they stayed back.

Within three years it was over. Allott left to work on *Cats* in London and Kelsey, now bored with Northampton, took up an offer to direct a musical on Broadway. He stayed nine months in the States, was paid huge sums of money, but the show never



The maverick... David Kelsey in *The Seagull* at the Royal Theatre, Northampton, 1981

Letters

Norman Bailey writes: In your obituary of Sir Charles Dill (April 4) you mention a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) without referring to what I believe to have been its original use, the examination of metals. The Welding Institute near Cambridge obtained an instrument for this purpose in the late 1960s and used it very effectively in solving, by 1971, the problem of lamellar tearing which had plagued attempts to weld the high strength steels, then newly introduced for the manufacture of submarines. This was well before the mid-1970s referred to in the obituary. Up until then, high power microscopic examination of metals had been hampered by the need to replicate the metal surface or to produce very thin metal specimens which may, in itself, have altered their fine structure; both operations were time-consuming and expensive. The SEM was originally used to examine rough fracture surfaces without any preparation, other than cleaning off dirt and oil, at magnifications from x10 to x40,000. The SEM was later used to study the microstructures of specimens polished and etched in the normal way, although at magnifications not quite so high as was achievable in the transmission electron microscope. A few months after the SEM had been bought, transmission microscopes at the Institute were virtually relegated to the broom cupboard!

Miss N B Harvey writes: A footnote to your obituary of Greer Garson (*Obituary*, April 8). In about 1935, another sixth-former and I were given the pleasurable task in our lunch hour of despatching a telegram of good wishes to Greer Garson. It was to a London theatre and was from our mutual Latin mistress. She had been, for a time at least, a pupil of East Horn Grammar School.

J Orchard writes: As well as her other talents, Greer Garson had a first-class honours degree in mathematics. I was told this many years ago by a contemporary of hers at Queen Mary's College, London.

Peter Naylor

For the public good

PROFESSOR PETER Naylor, who has died at the age of 67, spent most of his career as a professor teaching politics, history and international relations, but his foundation was laid in his practical experience of administration in the Admiralty, later the navy department of the unified Ministry of Defence.

Peter Naylor was educated at the Mercers' School, and took a first-class honours degree in history at Wadham College, Oxford, before entering the Civil Service as an Assistant Principal in 1952. Appointed to the Admiralty, his intellectual ability and administrative talents quickly enabled him to make his mark, notably in the key junior post of Private Secretary to the Secretary of the Admiralty, Sir John Lang.

When the government had decided, in 1962, that the submarine-based Polaris system should be the basis of the UK strategic deterrent, Naylor was selected as a member of the hand-picked staff for the special Polaris executive which was established in the Admiralty. Here he stayed for five exciting years, a period of intense effort devoted to design, construction, procurement, support facilities and training, all programmed to meet an in-service date for the Polaris force of 1969.

Naylor was closely engaged in the creation, monitoring and administration of this complex project, involving a wide range of naval and civilian personnel as well as contractors and other government agencies. There was, in particular, a constant need for close relations with the US

navy, and Naylor's North American contacts, combined with his personal charm, helped to ease the way for full cooperation.

But, as it turned out, his future did not lie in Whitehall administration in which he had spent 17 years. After leaving the Polaris project and spending two years as a branch head dealing with long-range strategic planning, Naylor accepted the appointment of Professor of Strategic Studies at Lancaster University. He took to the academic life straight away with both style and enthusiasm, remaining happily at Lancaster for eight years, for the last three of which he was head of the Department of Politics and International Relations. In 1977, he returned to the naval service to take up an appointment tailor-made for him — the post of Professor of History and International Affairs at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. Here he presided with authority over the further development of the academic content of the Royal Naval staff course and established a reputation for teaching well and with generous hospitality, and for his personal kindness to colleagues in difficulty.

On retirement from the Naval College in 1988, he was delighted to accept the part-time post of Provost of Gresham College, where he resumed his links with the Mercers' company, reviving memories of his school years. He was planning the college's quarter-centenary celebrations at the time of his death.

Professor Naylor's academic influence was considerable, but although never formally a teacher, he was also a good writer in the somewhat bleak field of the nuclear deterrent, and of the external role of the Soviet Union during the Cold War. It was, however, the fun himself, from countless friends to remember. From his early days as a civil servant, he displayed a genial, somewhat courtly, personality. He combined a capacity for getting things done, and for firmness when required, with an agreeable sense of humour, which prevented him taking either the world or himself too seriously.

His infectious gift for enjoyment was balanced by a conviction that life was not only for living, but for living for good purpose. He liked to quote St Thomas Aquinas: "Never be entirely idle; but either be reading, or writing, or praying, or meditating, or endeavouring something for the public good." It is a personal epitaph of which he would approve.



The history man... Peter Naylor in 1947

David Whitton

A fighter who turned anger into action

DAVID WHITTON, who has died of a heart attack aged 44, was one of the most energetic and effective disability campaigners. Because of this it was very easy to overlook or forget David's own multiple disabilities. Apart from raising a great deal of money for individual disabled people to get adapted cars and vans, he was also one of the leading experts in the country on mobility and disability matters.

His undoubted expertise stemmed from his own struggles to get others to recognise that he, like many other disabled people, did not want to be viewed as an object of pity or charity, but rather as a person who simply wanted the tools to help him live his life as he wanted. He became increasingly angry about the unnecessary obstacles put in his way, but turned that into a fierce energy and sense of social justice to work with and help other disabled people across the country. Like many other disabled people, David had to do what was really a full-time job working as a "volunteer", without the status usually accorded to leading campaigners who have a paid position in an organisation. But even so his work was known and valued by individual disabled people, national charities, MPs and members of the House of Lords.

Whenever David came across what seemed a

ridiculous situation, he jumped into it with verve and imagination. For instance, when he was having trouble getting his prosthetic leg to work properly, he used the Internet to get hold of information from the US about how to overcome the problem, and lobbied the British manufacturer to incorporate the necessary changes — for himself and others. Similarly, he found out about American adapted vehicles for severely disabled people, and pushed the British charity, Motability, to offer them to people here. Among other things, David became a leading exponent of the opportunities afforded by new technologies to blind and partially sighted people, and was a wizard of the World Wide Web.

David was born in Exmouth and spent some of his childhood in South America, before returning to England. His first job was as a coffee broker in the City — which he loathed; he then became a travelling salesman (during which time he and his sister saved a drowning child from a Glasgow canal), but returned to an interest in woodworking and became a cabinet-maker in Clerkenwell. He eventually gave this up when his eyesight started to fail, because of childhood diabetes and progressive renal failure. David was also a water diver, which he learned from his father who drilled for water in Spain.

His constant enthusiasm will be widely missed, as will his wicked sense of humour; David did not take kindly to the pompous and self-righteous. Nor was his enthusiasm confined to his work. He was an avid opera-goer and had a keen and informed interest in classical music, the ballet and modern dance; he was also a connoisseur of powerful rum. David will be deeply missed by his wife, Alison, his family, friends, and by so many people whose lives he helped to change.



Mobilising for disabled people... David Whitton

Birthdays

Jean Ayckbourn, playwright, 57; Raymond Barre, economist, former prime minister of France, 72; Bill Byden, theatre director, 54; Montserrat Caballe, opera singer, 63; David Cassidy, singer, 47; Brian Connolly, writer and broadcaster, 80; Fran Cooke, jockey, 50; Elspet Gray, actress, 57; Lionel Hampton, vibraphonist and composer, 86; Edward Hyde, jockey, 60; Uwe Kitzing, former president, Templeton College, Oxford, 68; Hady Kruger, actor, 68; Bryan Magee, philosopher and writer, 86; Ann Miller, actress and singer, 89; Dr Hilary Jicelle, educationist, 51; Haald Penrose, test pilot, author and air historian, 92; Carlos Reutemann, grand prix driver, 54; George Robertson, Labour MP, 50; Lady Ricetts, former chairman, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, 77; Graham Hse, cricketer, 32; Dr Wendy Savage, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 61.

Death Notices

FLETCHER, Dr. J. de Westbury, West Midlands, suddenly on April 5th aged 81, member of the International Commission of History of Linguistics, died peacefully at his home, 15, The Rectory, Westbury, Wiltshire, on Wednesday 7th April at 10.30. Burial at Westbury on Friday 12th April at 11.00. Family notices in the Westbury Advertiser.

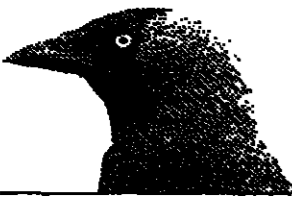
LENNARD, Mark Allen, television producer, died suddenly on Tuesday April 9th, 1996, aged 52, at his home, 15, The Rectory, Westbury, Wiltshire, on Wednesday 10th April at 10.30. Burial at Westbury on Friday 12th April at 11.00. Family notices in the Westbury Advertiser.

STANTON, April, the suddenly aged 89 Mrs. Barbara, died peacefully at her home, 15, The Rectory, Westbury, Wiltshire, on Wednesday 10th April at 10.30. Burial at Westbury on Friday 12th April at 11.00. Family notices in the Westbury Advertiser.

In Memoriam

OSWELL, Bob MP, A Parliamentary member, died on 11th April 1996. To place your condolence telephone 0171 73 4667 Fax 0171 73 4322

Jackdaw



mass and are mostly useless embellishments in space. The ideal astronaut would probably therefore be legless as well as small.

Val Dobson of Preston stands up for shorties in a letter to the New Scientist.

Mad solutions

THE NATIONAL Rifle Association today announced that it has offered to send its entire 3.3 million membership over to England to assist with its massive cow-culling effort. NRA executive Wayne LaPierre said that if Britain did not have such stringent gun-control laws, "they'd have been able to nip this problem at the start". He called on Congress to immediately repeal the ban on some types of assault rifle, including the .50-calibre Elsie Eliminator, so the membership can "do the job right".

LUIS ALFONSO Maquilón Amaya, a head trafficker for the Cali cocaine cartel, is reportedly trying to buy up all 4.7 million mad British cows on the black market.

According to sources here, the plan is to stuff the cows full of cocaine and ship them to the United States. "Normally we have big problems with customs when the bags break inside and the animals make a big scene," a source said. "But a coca loco isn't bothered too much by even a couple of kilos in its bloodstream."

ENTERTAINER Michael Jackson and Saudi Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal announced today that they will create a theme-park home for all British cows afflicted with mad-cow disease. Stroking a cow's forehead as he spoke at the press conference in a barely audible whisper, the singer would not provide details of the amusement park or venture to explain why people would pay to be with millions of mad cows other than to say it would be "really, really wonderful".

CHINA announced today that it plans to conduct "amphibious mad-cow exercises" in the Taiwan Strait. Secretary of State Warren Christopher

warned China's leadership that the US viewed the developments "seriously".

A GROUP of actors and actresses has called on Prime Minister John Major to "stop the slaughter" of British mad cows and "do something positive instead, like vaccinate them or whatever".

"We feel the government hasn't done enough," said Liam Neeson. Neeson said he has felt sympathetic toward British cows ever since the filming of the movie *Rob Roy*, in which he escaped from soldiers by hiding inside the carcass of a large, decomposing livestock. "The group, Creativity United to Denounce Slaughter (CUDS), plans to distribute lapel buttons with ribbons. Christopher Buckley goes mad in the *Shouts and Murmurs* section of the *New Yorker*."

Tanorexics

KAREN PUTS down the article about the dangers of sunbathing. She's read it several times and the warnings

are spinning around in her head. On the verge of tears, she hesitates next to the switch for the sunbed. Then she looks at the mini-dress she's planning to wear this evening. It's no good, she has to be brown. As if in a trance, she strips and clambers on to the bed. "Just one more go won't hurt," she thinks. "I'll definitely stop tomorrow." But that's what she says every day.

Karen is no ordinary sunbed user: she's one of an increasing number of women suffering from "tanorexia", a compulsion to be suntanned, whatever the time of year, whatever the cost. The warning signs are the amount of time and the mental energy devoted to the tanning obsession. Most tanorexics use a sunbed at least three times a week, often daily, spending much of the time away from the sunbed obsessing over the brownness of their skins and planning their next tanning fix.

Karen, now 25, has finally kicked her tanning habit after months of psychotherapy. But the memory of her compulsion

is still vivid in her mind. "I used to panic when I saw my tan had faded," she says. "Even going for a day or half a day without using the sunbed was a strain — it was like having withdrawal symptoms. I was sure everybody could tell when I hadn't been using it. It was a really weird feeling, I just felt drawn to it all the time."

Cosmopolitan investigates the latest addiction, tanorexia.

Lippy folk

TEANK GOODNESS I found you! I thought I was alone, a freak in a world of people without need of balm. Here is my story: My name is Andrew A and Lip Balm has always been one of my best friends.

It's been there with me through almost everything. Unfortunately, it's never there when I really need it. Do I really need it? Right now, there are three different kinds of lip balm right here on my computer table. Let me tell you how they came to be here. Last weekend, at 12.30 in the morning, I ran out of lip balm. I cannot be without it, so I got in my car and drove to 7-11 to buy some more. All they had was Chapstick Petroleum Jelly. I purchased it and opened it in the car. I put it on, but quickly became unhappy with the way it seemed to disappear. I proceeded to drive to a Mobil station where I bought some Carmex. It cost a lot, but I needed it. Again, I wasted no time in opening it and putting it on. For the moment, I was

satisfied. I felt like I was in good shape until I saw some Chapstick Ultra 8730 in the store the next day. I never seen it before, so I bought it. I like it. If I don't use it with me when I eat, I break out. I get sorry and I can't concentrate, but I forget it at work and I sort of using some olive oil. I need help. I know I've got problems. A friend of mine, Marina, has shared a disorder with me as we always have at least five flavors with her.

I hope that my story will let others know that the compulsion is not a rare thing. I support them and will here my best progress.

Final dependents page the Internet (<http://users.com/LipBalmA/>)

Jackdaw wants your Jew, E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; ckdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London, EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

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Schrempp goes back to basics, page 12
Plus: Slogans for a product-plugging Pope

Tomorrow: The oddball investments racket

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

UBS spurns first suitor

Sarah Whitebloom

UNION Bank of Switzerland last night dropped a broad hint that it might consider a mega-takeover as its board voted unanimously to throw out a merger approach from banking rival Credit Suisse. In an unprecedented step in the secretive Swiss banking community, UBS made clear its anger at the manner in which the approach had been made as it issued a public statement last night. UBS declared that it had been "taken aback" by the insistence of CS that the bank should make a formal decision on the merger before next week's shareholders' meeting.

Credit Suisse. The news is certain to bring possible suitors out of the woodwork and the large American institutions are likely to be prime candidates. UBS has long nurtured ambitions to build up its presence in the US and a deal with transatlantic benefits would be high on any agenda that the group may now have. City sceptics, however, claimed yesterday that UBS might have been trying simply to emphasise — for the benefit of its investors — that it was exploring all possible avenues in an attempt to enhance shareholder value. The bank is in dispute with one of its shareholders, Martini Ebner, who plans to vote against the appointment of Robert Studer as the new chairman of the group at the annual meeting next week. In what must be an unprecedented public spat in Swiss banking circles, UBS's statement is openly dismissive about the overtures from CS. UBS says that its shock at the merger suggestion was compounded because Credit Suisse chief Raimondo Harding said: "No one is fooled by Rentokil's so-called strategy. Much of the increase in the offer is illusory — some 30 per cent is paid for with money already promised to our shareholders in the first dividend for this year."

could influence the meeting's outcome. In last night's strongly worded reply, UBS said: "In terms of share performance, earnings per share, earnings per employee and shareholders' equity it is clearly ahead of CS Holding." The statement added that a merger would "place a great strain on the group's financial and management resources, thereby impairing its current strength". According to the bank, CS's plan would "hinder the successful development of the UBS group in future". News that the proposed merger has been rejected will be welcomed in the City and in Switzerland. There had been widespread fears that a deal between the two banks would lead to swingeing staff cuts in Zurich and London. The UBS board's decision not to link up with CS will come as little surprise to the European banking community, which questioned the logic of a merger and maintained that the political and regulatory barriers would be impossible to overcome. It had been estimated that some 10,000 jobs would have to go in Switzerland for the merger to make sense.

Extra pressure on BET as Rentokil raises bid

Ian King

RENTOKIL, the rat-catching and business services group, yesterday stepped up the pressure on rival BET, increasing its cash-and-shares offer for the company from £1.9 billion to £2.1 billion, and accusing BET of treating its shareholders "like fools". Some City analysts said Rentokil had probably done enough to win control of BET after it increased the crucial all-cash offer for the company by 23p to 207½p — ahead of most expectations. Announcing the increased bid, Rentokil's chief executive, Clive Thompson, said BET's management had "failed, failed and failed again to get growth" and had ignored the company's 40,000 employees. He added: "We say BET

shareholders should change the management — call in Rentokil." However, BET immediately called on investors to reject the higher offer, insisting that Rentokil was "running out of steam", and accused it of trying to pay BET shareholders with their own money. Chairman Sir Christopher Harding said: "No one is fooled by Rentokil's so-called strategy. Much of the increase in the offer is illusory — some 30 per cent is paid for with money already promised to our shareholders in the first dividend for this year." Giving more details of Rentokil's proposals, Mr Thompson — nicknamed "Mr 20 per cent" in the City on his record of increasing earnings per share by at least 20 per cent a year for the past 14 years — said there would be a number of job losses if it won BET. Most would come with

the closure of BET's head office in Piccadilly, London, and in its divisional management. "We are talking about tens or hundreds rather than thousands," he added. However, Mr Thompson was able to give more detail of Rentokil's plans for BET, including greater use of BET's famous "Initial" brand name, and disclosed that the cost of the bid to date, including underwriting, is £74 million. Several analysts and fund managers said last night the higher offer should be enough for Rentokil to clinch control. One said: "I'd be surprised if this wasn't enough — I personally didn't think they even needed to raise the bid." Rentokil shares closed down 13p at 350p last night, bringing the value of the cash-and-shares offer for BET to 207½p, against BET's closing price of 208½p, up ½p.



Deposited... demonstrator is ousted from the annual meeting PHOTOGRAPH GUILIO SAGGIN

Protesters bare message for Lloyds TSB

DISGRUNTLED shareholders, including nine strikers, disrupted Lloyds TSB's annual meeting yesterday in a protest against the bank's refusal to cancel Third World debt.

The meeting, in Edinburgh, was the first held by the group since it was formed last year with the merger of Lloyds and TSB.

About 30 shareholders staged the protest. The strippers had various slogans painted on their bodies, including "Expose the Naked Truth" and "This is my ethical streak — what is yours?". The protest was organised by Lloyds and Midland Boycott (Lamb), whose spokesperson, Joe Bird, one of the strikers, said the bank had made a £50 million profit from Third World debt in 1995.

Big Mac essays lamb as it plans passage to India

COMBINE the centuries-old cultural mystique of India with the death-head grin of the sinister Ronald McDonald and you end up with the quarter-pound burger made of 100 per cent pure, ground... lamb. In an act of self-abnegation worthy of the great eastern religions, the world's biggest fast-food group is to open its first beef-free restaurants. In 15,000 McDonald's outlets around the world, millions of customers munch their way through burgers that, whatever their variations — cheese, gerkins, special sauces — have one thing in common: beef. In two branches there will not be an ounce of beef in sight. Nor of cow meat. Nor calf's liver. Not, in fact, of even the most

dim and distant member of the ox family. The branches will be in New Delhi and Bombay, two of the biggest cities in India, where the Hindu faithful regard the cow as a sacred beast. The role of beef in the Mc-menu, a McDonald's spokesman explained, would be taken by lamb, which is cheerfully tucked into by followers of most of the great religions. Not that the Mc-men are giving up on India's large vegetarian population, for whom there will be vegetable burgers and vegetable nuggets. Dishes are to be spiced up as only the Indians know how, and fish dishes will be on offer. The Indian travails of another culinary icon, Colonel Sanders, suggest some caution. In February 1993, the Reuters station in New Delhi reported that Indian citizens had proved too scrawny for the colonel's high standards, forcing postponement of Kentucky Fried Chicken's debut in the sub-continent. Should McDonald's find India breeding the wrong kind of sheep, it will have to turn for supplies to the Home of the Lamburger: the Falkland Islands.

Notebook

Swiss bankers lose their cool



Edited by Patrick Donovan

THE Union Bank of Switzerland may have rejected the idea of a merger with Credit Suisse. But the subtext of last night's statement makes it clear that UBS that is very much in the market for a takeover, even though the bank has obviously fallen out fairly badly with its putative partner. Until now, UBS, Switzerland's biggest financial institution, has publicly maintained that growth will be generated either organically or with incremental acquisitions. Instead, UBS was last night saying that a big bank merger "could well bring potential benefits in some line of business". But even more extraordinary for such a stuffy business community is UBS's public rebuttal of CS.

any nearer creating the Thatcherite dream of building a share-owning democracy. There were 8.5 million small shareholders in the run-up to sale of the generating companies in March last year. At the end of the year, the figure was virtually unchanged, according to latest research from Proshare. Far from building up wider share ownership, the number of small investors has fallen from its all-time peak of 11 million six years ago. Sir John's statement to Parliament yesterday also managed to skate around the thorny subject of whether the Treasury knew in advance that the electricity watchdog was poised to unveil a highly negative price review. If the Treasury did know, it omitted to say so in the prospectus, as shareholders found to their cost when shares fell on the second day's trading. One would hesitate to say this report is a whitewash. But institutions are hardly going to be impressed by his somewhat limp recommendation that communications should be "improved" between all parties in all future sales involving a regulated industry.

Anyone's BET

FAR from the knock-out blow most were expecting, Rentokil's renewed bid for BET sounded more like a damp squib. This is turning into a wearisome war of attrition and few investors appear to be won over by Rentokil's decision to boost its offer by £200 million to £2.1 billion. The bidder's shares duly slipped 13p to close at 350p. At this level, the paper offer for BET is worth around 207½p, compared with the 208½p mark which the market seems to have put on the shares. There were further signs that the market is losing its enthusiasm for Rentokil's bid as the bidder only managed to get its offer underwritten at a 7 per cent discount. For the original bid, the discount was three percentage points higher. Rentokil also did itself no favours yesterday by declining to put any figures on the kind of cost savings it expects if the bid succeeds. They could be substantial, however, because there are considerable economies of scale to be achieved in merging the two groups' operations in a broad range of areas including cleaning, security, facilities management and personnel operations. Obvious divestments would be BET's head office, and very probably the bid target's plant services, conferencing and resort management operations.

For all that, there is a grudging admiration at the refusal by Rentokil's chief executive Clive Thompson to pay over the top. The fight will proceed for several months, as the 20 institutions which hold more than 50 per cent of BET shares. With two weeks to go before the offer expires, the outcome is still anybody's guess.

Power failure

SIR John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office, may be right in yesterday's opinion that the Government squeezed the maximum proceeds from the £3.6 billion flotation of National Power and PowerGen. The rest of the conclusions in his official report into the power flotation hardly stand up, however, to careful scrutiny. First, he tells Parliament that last year's sale was "notably successful" in widening and deepening share ownership. To be sure, the float managed to attract one million new shareholders. But research has shown that the majority of these individual punters were looking for a quick buck. And even when they hold shares for the longer term, there is still no evidence that the privatisation process is

First, he tells Parliament that last year's sale was "notably successful" in widening and deepening share ownership. To be sure, the float managed to attract one million new shareholders. But research has shown that the majority of these individual punters were looking for a quick buck. And even when they hold shares for the longer term, there is still no evidence that the privatisation process is

Shepherd urged to rescue TECs from legal morass

PRESSURE was mounting on Education and Employment Secretary Gillian Shepherd last night to safeguard the status of Training and Enterprise Councils as it emerged that a court battle could endanger ministerial plans to streamline the delivery of advice and services to businesses in the regions. Four mergers between TECs and chambers of commerce have been put on hold by ministers pending the outcome next month of a High Court case. The case, between Oldham TEC and the Inland Revenue, will decide whether TECs are charities or businesses. Oldham wants charitable status to win tax refunds, but the court's ruling will apply to all TECs, which administer

£1.2 billion of government funding for training. If Oldham wins charitable status, activity by a TEC outside its original memorandum and articles of association would be illegal. Mergers between chambers and TECs, encouraged by the Government to simplify the delivery of business support, would be made impossible because chambers take part in a wide range of services including trade missions. The case has aroused fears of an outflow of business people from TEC boards because they would face more onerous personal liabilities as charity trustees. Stephen Byers, Labour spokesman on training, demanded that Mrs Shepherd intervene to remove "this cloud of uncertainty" over TEC directors. He said clarification was needed of directors' future responsibilities.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1.85	France 7.44	Italy 2.330	Singapore 2.06
Austria 15.25	Germany 2.1975	Malta 0.5325	South Africa 6.05
Belgium 45.00	Greece 358.00	Netherlands 2.4575	Spain 163.50
Canada 1.9975	Hong Kong 11.48	New Zealand 2.16	Sweden 10.00
Cyprus 0.70	India 51.71	Norway 9.54	Switzerland 1.750
Denmark 8.52	Ireland 0.9975	Portugal 226.75	Turkey 105.727
Finland 7.02	Israel 4.76	Saudi Arabia 5.69	USA 1.4750

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Mark Lose... after Dub...

Bristol & West acts to bar the takeover speculators



After the fall... Juergen Schrempf will enforce Daimler's new strategy

PHOTOGRAPH: THOMAS KENZLE

Anglo-Saxon ethos for Daimler

Outlook/ Ian Traynor in Stuttgart on a business attempting recovery from the worst losses in German corporate history

IT HAS been, to borrow a term from the House of Windsor, an annus horribilis for Daimler-Benz, flagship of German industry. Almost DM6 billion (£2.8 billion) losses last year, the worst in German corporate history, the shedding of the Dutch aircraft-builder Fokker, the break-up of the AEG industrial group, no dividend payout for the first time in 45 years, and the unceremonious dismissal of Edzard Reuter, the former chairman widely viewed in the fat years as Mr Corporate Germany. His departure signalled the end of the grand Reuter vision, now seen as illusory, of Daimler as an expanding, integrated technology business. Under the ruthless stewardship of his successor, Juergen Schrempf, just under a year in the job, the new model Daimler is to go back to its roots, "making anything that moves - trains, planes, cars, and trucks". And to turn a profit. At Daimler-Benz's nerve centre in Stuttgart yesterday, Mr Schrempf outlined a strategy that is to see Daimler blaze a trail away from the traditional German corporate model and take on key features of the Anglo-Saxon business ethos. Already the business has abandoned German accounting practices and shifted to the American system. At next month's AGM

scheme comes good. It will be 1997 at best before the loss-making Dasa aerospace arm returns to the black and Mr Schrempf is keen to be shot of at least parts of the Dornier aerospace subsidiary. Manfred Genz, Daimler's finance director, said: "There has to be a solution this year." And that solution must cost less than a billion marks. Daimler owns 58 per cent of Dornier, but one of the heirs to what was a family firm, Martine Dornier-Tiefenthaler, is exercising veto rights to prevent a Daimler sell-off and has emerged as one of Mr Schrempf's most vocal critics. As a result, Mr Schrempf has ordered her removal from the Daimler supervisory board. All of which could make for a boisterous AGM. In addition to endorsing Mrs Dornier-Tiefenthaler's removal, the meeting could hear whinging about the lack of a dividend for the first time in living memory, and is certain to hear grumbling about the move towards executive share options at a time of jobs cuts, belt-tightening, and minimal pay rises. Then there is the small matter of the Stuttgart public prosecutor's investigating Mr Schrempf, Mr Reuter, and others for allegations that they wilfully misled shareholders last year by failing to disclose the scale of the record losses confronting Daimler-Benz. Mr Schrempf yesterday dismissed the allegations and promised "full co-operation" with the Stuttgart inquiry. And while he is keen to talk

Table with financial data for Daimler-Benz, including sales, earnings, and operating losses for 1995 and 1994.

Teresa Hunter BRISTOL & West Building Society yesterday barred its doors to new investors fuelling speculation that it is poised to announce its takeover. The move mirrors that made by the Alliance & Leicester, which stopped opening new accounts around two weeks before confirming plans to abandon building society status and float on the stock market. The Bristol & West, Britain's ninth largest society, is seen as the next most likely convert to a public limited company, probably via a takeover. Any change of its status would trigger bonus payments of around £1,000 to members. A Bristol & West spokesman yesterday said that the

society had stopped admitting new members because branches had been badly disrupted over the past couple of days by a flood of investors opening qualifying accounts in an attempt to cash in on any future gateway of the society's assets. The society said that yesterday's measure was intended to ensure that the savings institution remained stable - again echoing statements from the Alliance & Leicester when it stopped taking new society status and float on the stock market. The spokesman said: "It became apparent that the level of new account openings was having an adverse effect on our ability to provide a high level of service to our existing customers." Despite earlier this year increasing the minimum sums needed to open a qualifying share account to £2,500, the society had been inundated

with people trying to become members. None of the mortgage lenders publicly committed to remaining mutual building societies - such as Bradford & Bingley, Nationwide and Yorkshire - has stopped opening accounts even though they have each been subject to similar bouts of takeover speculation. The B&W has openly admitted that it has been considering a number of options, including abandoning mutual status and becoming a bank. It has further confirmed that talks have taken place with other organisations about a possible takeover. The society yesterday refused to comment on whether its strategic review has been completed and a decision to take a takeover taken. The City was yesterday awash with rumours that the

society was on the verge of announcing a takeover by a leading financial services group. The Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Banks, financial services and tobacco firm BAT and the Prudential Insurance outfit have each expressed interest in acquiring a society. With the Halifax, Leeds, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester, Cheltenham & Gloucester and Northern Rock out of the picture, quality medium-sized societies are becoming rare. B&W's profits rose 8 per cent to £77.1 million last year before a £39.9 million write off following the sale of its estate agency chain. The Bristol & West denied that yesterday's move was a precursor to a takeover announcement. "People will always read into it what they want to. It is illustrative of the environment that we are in," its spokesman said.

N&P members accept Abbey offer

Martyn Halsall, Northern Industrial Correspondent NATIONAL & Provincial Building Society members yesterday voted overwhelmingly for a £1.35 billion merger with the Abbey National, Britain's fifth-largest bank. The merger is still subject to approval by the Building Societies Commission in June but is likely to be completed by the end of the summer. The vote, at a special general meeting in Manchester, will end the 150-year-old N&P's building society status and create a north-

south alliance. The new group will be the second-largest mortgage lender, with 15 million customers served by 1,000 branches and 23,000 staff. Abbey's assets will increase to £13 billion to £107 billion. Branches are expected to be reduced to about 880 but Abbey National has promised there will be no compulsory redundancies in the retail network, and has forecast new jobs in Bradford, where N&P has its headquarters and employs about 1,400 people. The meeting, open to the N&P's 1.4 million voting members, attracted 490.

More than two hours of frequently hostile questions covered staff job security, the value of the transfer deal and directors' future salaries. Michael Hardern, founder of the anti-merger group Members for Conversion, told the board: "I think you are being robbed... I would be much happier with a £2 billion price." He said the much-anticipated March 1996 revival could add further profits and value to the N&P. "In a year's time we may well find we have sold out for a song." The Labour peer Lord Monkswell said merger

would introduce priorities "in complete contradiction to the directors of a building society". N&P chairman Lord Shuttleworth said merger was the "only realistic option" in the short term and the best option, in the interests of customers, members and employees. In 1995 the N&P approached over 40 organisations, and examined five potential proposals, in its search for a larger partner. Four N&P directors, including Lord Shuttleworth, will join the Abbey board. N&P savers will receive at least £500 each from the merger.

News in brief

Amec profits fall after Kvaerner bid

AMEC, the construction group, signalled its determination yesterday to put last year's failed hostile bid from the Norwegian shipping group Kvaerner in the past, as it unveiled a 30.5 per cent decline in 1995 pre-tax profits. The new chief executive, Peter Mason, said that if the £4.1 million bid defence costs were stripped out, the profits would have equalled the 1994 figure of £20 million. Mr Mason, who has already embarked on a strategic overhaul of the company, added that the outlook for 1996 was encouraging and he expected a "significant improvement" in profits this year. The review, due to be finished by September, has already led to two businesses worth £12.5 million being put up for sale, plus annual savings of £5 million. - Pauline Springett

Fed delays on Fleet

THE Federal Reserve has delayed a vote on Fleet Financial Group's proposed takeover of NatWest's American subsidiary for \$3 billion (£2 billion), pending a request for more information on branch closures in poor areas. The Fed, which was to have voted on Monday, has yet to set a new date. The postponement follows complaints from Inner City Press, an organisation in New York's Bronx, over Fleet's refusal to disclose its plans for branch closures. Inner City alleged that when Fleet acquired Shawmut National Corp it harmed poor neighbourhoods in Albany, New York State, with closures it did not disclose beforehand. By delaying a vote, the Fed is signalling its concern about bank compliance with regulations governing service to low-income and minority groups. Fleet said it was committed to less well-off neighbourhoods, adding that prior disclosure of branch closures was not normal procedure. Fleet expects Fed approval of the NatWest acquisition by May. - Mark Tran in New York

Vodafone quits manufacture

VODAFONE is pulling out of mobile phone equipment manufacturing to concentrate on its network operations and services. It has sold its 50 per cent stake in Orbital Mobile Communications to Ericsson, the Swedish telecom group which owns the rest of the Orbital shares. Orbital makes GSM digital phones and infrastructure equipment for cellular phone networks. It employs 750 people at its manufacturing plant at Carlton-in-Lincoln, Nottinghamshire, and 350 at its headquarters and design operation in Basingstoke. Jan Edhall, managing director of Ericsson's cellular operations, said no jobs would be lost as a result of the deal. Orbital, which last year earned pre-tax profits of £5.8 million on sales of more than £100 million, was set up by Vodafone and Plessey in 1988, and later became a wholly owned Vodafone subsidiary. In 1991, Vodafone sold half of the company to Ericsson for £45 million. - Nicholas Bannister

Akbar reprieved

ALI AKBAR, the former ECBI bank treasurer set to be extradited to the United States next Tuesday, has had an 11th-hour reprieve after an oversight by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. Mr Justice Ognall, sitting in the High Court, adjourned an application for judicial review following an undertaking by Mr Howard that he would extradite Mr Akbar pending the court proceedings. Applying for judicial review of the decision to extradite him, John Hardy, representing Mr Akbar, said that France - to which Mr Akbar had fled in 1993 - had not given consent. Mr Justice Ognall, adjourning the hearing to May 16, said the French government should be invited to be represented.

New House of Fraser chief

THE troubled House of Fraser retail group has appointed John Coleman, former managing director of Texas Homecare, as its new chief executive. Mr Coleman replaces Andrew Jennings, who was ousted last month. House of Fraser has issued five profits warnings since flotation by the Harrods group in 1994, and the exit of Mr Jennings intensified takeover speculation. - Pauline Springett

Nurdin profits up

CASH and Carry group Nurdin & Peacock yesterday unveiled a near 30 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for 1995 at £21.45 million and pledged to expand despite difficult trading conditions. The company has been the subject of takeover speculation but chief executive David Simms said it was not in talks with either of the hot tips - Booker or SHV. Instead, Nurdin & Peacock announced the £400,000 acquisition of Thompson Wholesale Foods. - Pauline Springett

State sell-offs likely to face stiffer scrutiny

Chris Barrie THE Government's privatisation programme faces much tougher scrutiny by investors following the fiasco over the £3.6 billion flotation of the state's 40 per cent stake in National Power and PowerGen in March last year. An official public spending watchdog warned yesterday. As the Government finalises its preparations for Monday's publication of the Railtrack pathfinder prospectus, the National Audit Office revealed that 91 per cent of institutional investors in the UK and the US felt their experience of the electricity generators' sale had had "a negative effect on the likelihood of their participating in a future privatisation". The results, gleaned from a survey of 300 UK and overseas institutions, came as a blow to ministers as they prepare for the Railtrack sell-off and July's privatisation of the nuclear power industry. Investors were furious last year when electricity shares dived on the announcement by the regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, of a fresh and unexpected scrutiny of profits in the regional electricity companies. Professor Littlechild's announcement, made the day

after the newly-floated National Power and PowerGen shares began trading, left investors sitting on hefty paper losses. The shares eventually recovered, but some investors and National Power itself - which bought some of its own shares in the sale - warned the Government they were contemplating legal action because ministers knew of Professor Littlechild's intentions before the flotation. Ministers argued disclosure of the pending review was not relevant as it did not directly involve generating companies. The NAO report noted confirmation from the Stock Exchange that "the sale had led to widespread and lingering concerns in the market". The result was that state sell-offs involving a regulated industry could come under much more careful scrutiny. In the survey, nearly 80 per cent of investors felt their perception of the regulatory regime had changed as a result of the episode and that this would affect their willingness to support state sales. However, the NAO praised the Treasury for making its sale proceeds. The report noted the companies' share prices were not artificially depressed by market makers ahead of the flotation and that the share responses and widened share ownership.

Foul play as Barings Bankrupts fail to net win against City police

Dan Atkinson TWO of the City's most venerable institutions - its police force and Barings bank - clashed on the football field yesterday, but this, apparently, was a fixture that failed to live up to the finest traditions of British sportsmanship. In what could have been a scene from Blue Murder at St Trinian's, the very real prospect of violence between the two sides, along with foul language and accusations of bias against the umpire, forced the abandonment of the game. As the dust settled, different accounts emerged from sources on each side; one at Barings suggested this was a "friendly" match that had run a little short of time. The company, recovering from the reckless gambles of Nick Leeson, was not anxious to admit to any more rogue players. But talk close to the police team suggested friendship was the last thing on the protagonists' minds. The game of shame took

Red Rose Economics/ Seumas Milne on training

Volunteers wanted for revolution

WHAT EVER else is at the heart of New Labour economics, training ought to occupy a very large part of it. As the party has progressively ditched Keynesian demand management, its place was supposed to have been taken by Gordon Brown's "supply-side socialism": the idea that only through massive investment in training, infrastructure and technology could Britain compete in a globalised economy. The need for a skills revolution to attract mobile capital and equip workers for continuous economic change has if anything become more central to Labour policy since Tony Blair took over. Party documents hammer away at the urgency of the task at hand, with Britain ranked 40th out of 48 countries in its "motivation to retrain" and seven million workers having no qualifications. Since Labour's plans for in-work training were published last month, however, confirming its abandonment of a com-

pulsory training levy, back-stage discontent has grown. There are two main building blocks in the plans. On one side are the education or jobs-plus-training packages for under-25s on the dole for more than six months - funded from the privatised utility windfall tax. Under these plans, those who refused a place would be given a 40 per cent benefit. Stephen Byers, Labour's training spokesman, is drafting parallel policies for the older long-term unemployed. On the other side are the new in-work training proposals. Most characteristically New Labour is the £150 million scheme for "individual learning accounts", under which one million employees would be given a smart card worth £150 to buy training courses if they chipped in £25. The rest of the workforce would get tax relief on their own contributions, and the package would be funded by reallocating Training and Enterprise Council funds. Two further elements of

Labour's in-work "skills revolution" are Gordon Brown's electronic University for Industry and a £150 million extension of the existing TEC-monitored Investors in People training standard scheme to small and medium-size firms, backed up with subsidies and public sector purchasing. Throughout the internal jockeying, Tony Blair made clear he was not prepared to carry on with the compulsory training levy Labour championed at the 1992 election. HIS supporters point out that the levy system of the last Labour government excluded small firms, where employment growth is now concentrated. But union leaders say they were told the overriding reason for the veto was that Labour could not be seen adding to "burdens on business". The CBI is quietly cock-a-hoop about the party's new voluntarist stance. Its director-general, Adair Turner, said: "Labour's shift away from the failed solutions of

Handwritten text in a box: "صحة من الامل"

Racing

Mark loses esteem after Dubai gallop

Non Cox

EIGHT horses were added to the list of entries for the Vodafone Derby at a cost of \$8,500 at yesterday's supplementary stage. They include current second favourite Mark Of Esteem...

a fair bit," said Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager. "He's still on schedule for the Guinness, but we'd prefer to reserve judgement on his chances of beating Alnarth until he gets over to England..."

In all, the Godolphin team, which won three British Classics last year with Lammtarra, Classic Cliche and Moonshell, tested a total of 19 horses yesterday. The working party included Lammtarra's half-brother Kammtarra, Fricket, Mick's Love, Helkon and Russian Revival...



Gale force... Gales Cavalier and Mark Dwyer are led in after their defeat of Viking Flagship at Cheltenham yesterday

Sport in brief

Friends differ over alleged Tyson assault

A FRIEND of the woman who claims Mike Tyson sexually assaulted her said yesterday that she did not believe the encounter in a Chicago nightclub had happened. Two other friends, however, backed the accuser's account. Tammie Batty, who worked with the woman at an Indiana beauty parlor and who accompanied her to the Chicago club, said: "This person is very light-complexed, and there's no signs of anyone being hit..."

Sampras ends service charge

PETE SAMPRAS fought off an aggressive challenge from Australia's Patrick Rafter to reach the quarter-finals of the Hong Kong Open. Michael Chang, seeded to meet Sampras in the final, had a few nervous moments before returning the last eight with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Hendrik Dreckmann of Germany. The top seed Sampras had difficulty coping with Rafter's big-kicking service but was rock-solid on his own serve and won 6-3, 7-6 in the 13min.

Record with driving ambition

A RECORD dozen nations will be contesting the Harrod's Driving Grand Prix, the centrepiece of the Royal Windsor Horse Show on May 8-12, when Britain's George Bowmann, nine times a previous winner, will attempt another victory in the horse teams section, writes John Kerr.

Snooker aims to close ranks

WORLD RANKING events will be restricted to 98 players from the 1997-98 season, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association has decided. The move by the game's governing body will dispense with six or seven qualifying rounds for each of the circuit's 10 ranking events at Blackpool each summer. Other players will compete on B and C circuits to earn places in a four-week summer qualifying school, to which those finishing 65-98 on the main tour will also be relegated.

Knee surgery delays Briers

NIGEL BRIERS, the Leicestershire opener, could miss the first two months of the cricket season after undergoing knee surgery. Briers, who stepped down as captain last year, aggravated a long-standing knee problem during the club's tour to South Africa.

Hoed banned for a year

ROGER HOED, the Sussex-based trainer, had his licence withdrawn for just over a year yesterday for misleading Jockey Club officials over a positive test returned by a stable runner. Elburg returned the positive test for a prohibitive substance after winning the Tote Marathon Handicap at Pontefract last year. Hoed was fined £1,000 for the offence and lost his licence to train from Wednesday until May 1.

for a breach of the Rules of Racing concerning his employment of stable staff. But a charge of misconduct relating to an incident involving fellow trainer Tom McGovern was dismissed. Hoed refused to comment after the hearing but his legal representative, William Norris, said: "We had a fair hearing..."

Mick's Love, bought out of Mark Johnston's stable last season, worked nicely, according to Crisford, and York Stakes is a possibility for him. The Godolphin team is expecting to bring a squad of 45 horses over to Newmarket at the end of the month. Racing Post Trophy winner Beaumont King is due to reappear in the Craven Stakes next week. Bonaralli, Clever Cliche, Glory Of Dancer, Shaamit, French-trained Spinning World and Tegula were the other additions to the Derby yesterday.

Brighton

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.10 Mistletoe Song, 2.40 Elton's Son, 2.50 Mid Current, 3.40 Champagne Grandy, 4.10 Spillo, 4.40 Royal Hunt, 5.10 College Night.

Nottingham

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Beverley card with guide to the form

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Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.00 Sister Act, 2.30 Emerald Hoop, 3.00 Greenbrae, 3.30 Clever Cliche, 4.00 Golden Red (pat), 4.30 Red Admiral (imp).

Beverley card with guide to the form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.50 Contravene, 2.50 Stimmer, 2.50 Loose Talk, 3.50 Miss Phobos, 4.20 Steve Patricios, 4.50 No Amending.

Brighton

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse name. Includes 2.10 Mistletoe Song, 2.40 Elton's Son, 2.50 Mid Current, 3.40 Champagne Grandy, 4.10 Spillo, 4.40 Royal Hunt, 5.10 College Night.

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GOLF: US MASTERS, FIRST DAY

David Davies finds a Crewe Cowboy easing into his stride among the Golden Bears and Great White Sharks at Augusta

Gilford leads the challenge

DAVID GILFORD, who even in these days of Golden Bears and Great White Sharks dares to enter the Augusta National golf club without a nickname, began his 1996 US Masters yesterday with a solid and satisfying 69.

to be extremely careful with the first putt. He hit it well. It was clearly heading for the hole but shaved the upper rim, almost stopping two feet past but not quite. It rolled slowly on, inch by agonising inch, down the slope that leads to a pond, before finally coming to rest 45 feet away.

compiled par after par all the way to the 13th. There his second shot, a three-iron from 185 yards out, drew the comment "That's a cracker" from the watching Ken Brown, a former Ryder Cup player.

counteracted each other." He was similarly reluctant to criticise the Masters authorities for either the speed of the greens or the pin position at the 10th.

before the event. Price did well to get round in 71 yesterday. Gilford even parried some eager questions about his hobby, which is beef farming. No, he said, his 25 cattle were not affected by BSE. No, he had not been worried about having to slaughter them and no, he was not concerned about any financial loss.

him look as though he has escaped from the office for the day. But despite all this he is the consummate professional. He plays more early-season tournaments than most, knowing that, although the total prize-money is not so high, that at the top end, where he expects to finish, is good.

Augusta National: Card of the course. Hole Yds Par Hole Yds Par. 1 400 4 10 485 4. 2 556 5 11 455 4. 3 300 3 12 155 3. 4 205 3 13 425 3. 5 435 4 14 405 4. 6 180 3 15 500 3. 7 380 4 16 170 3. 8 585 5 17 400 4. 9 435 4 18 405 4. Out 3485 36 In 3469 36. 6,925yds, Par 72.



Fairway to go... Gilford on the 2nd tee. STEPHEN MUNDAY

Hi-tech hardware gives old masters fresh drive

Helen Smyth sees a traditional start to the first major

HARRY C Valden III lives and works in Augusta, so he knew better than to expect any great fanfare on the occasion of his 50th Masters this year. He was not sent a gold patron's badge and there was no invitation to sit on the lawn and sip a mint julep with Jackson Stephens, the chairman of Augusta National. But Valden came just the same, as he has every year since he was six.

On a bright, chilly morning yesterday he exchanged greetings with the various members of the Harrison family in charge of matters on the first tee, making sure there are plenty of tees, ball markers, pencils and pin-position sheets in place. Phil, the official starter, in the job for 49 years, hands out the scorecards and announces the players - briefly. "Ted Tryba now driving. Fore, please."

"The Harisons have run the tee since 1947," Valden said. "They don't make a lot of changes here. The Harisons are from Hurst in Berkshire originally, came across in 1708 - their cousin Lovelace was one of the first governors of the colony of New York and his father was rector of Winchester Cathedral. They found the sunny south very alluring and once they got here they didn't go back to New York."

Valden remembers watching Lloyd Mangrum, who never won a green jacket but was runner-up twice, in 1947 but one of his most vivid memories is of 1954, when he persuaded his father to let him miss school on the Monday of the play-off between Ben Hogan and Sam Snead. Snead beat Hogan by a single shot, 70 to 71, and, like Valden, he was at the first tee again this year.

Ever perky, even at the age of 83, Snead is the youngest of the three honorary starters. The oldest is the oldest at 94 and Byron Nelson is 84 and they get the proceedings under way every year. Snead was the first to arrive and was quickly suggesting to Stephens that he should have the tees moved forward 10 yards for the octogenarians. "Damned few of the young bucks will carry that trap from back here," the man known as Slammin' Sam said.

Hockey

Olympic stopgap as Britain play on half-finished pitch

GREAT BRITAIN and the other five men's teams in the pre-Olympic tournament reluctantly agreed to play the first matches of the round-robin tournament on Clark University's warm-up pitch here today.

A meeting of team managers agreed to this stopgap arrangement last night on condition that the rest of the event be held on the main pitch at Clark, which is officially the second hockey venue for the Atlanta Olympic Games.

This pitch should have been completed weeks ago but work has been delayed by heavy rain and high winds. There have also been problems with the main Olympic hockey pitch at the splendid Morris Brown University stadium. The artificial surface laid there was originally designated to be the pre-Olympic tournament venue but for legal and contractual reasons it has not yet been handed over to the Atlanta Olympic organising committee. Besides, work has not been completed here either. There is a six-foot ditch round the pitch. Playing on the Clark warm-up surface must be considered highly risky. There are piles of straw everywhere, bits of standing water and no runoff for the players.

Rugby Union

Cup profile: The men in black have suddenly become everyone's favourites to do the Welsh double, writes David Plummer

Neath cross line to live life in the fast lane

LESS than a month ago Neath were 20-1 long shots to win the league and cup double and their squad considered betting 550 each to fund a summer tour.

The league leaders tomorrow take on Newport in the Swalec Cup semi-final in Cardiff as favourites for both competitions in what was intended to be a transitional season for them. In the other semi-final Llanelli take on Pontypridd at Bridgend.

Neath were arguably the doziest side in the First Division last season, returning a mere 33 tries in their 22 league games. With four matches to go this campaign they have crossed their opponents' lines 54 times and even if Pontypridd or Cardiff beat them to the title, Neath are sure to top the try chart.

It is a remarkable transformation and coincided with the decision of Wales to play a faster, more expansive game, though the national side has a long way to go to emulate Neath's ball-winning, handling, passing and speed.

At the start of the season Neath were only outside bets to make the European Cup by finishing in the top four. The coach David Pickering had stepped down to be replaced by Daryll Jones, who had helped Aberavon win promotion from the Second Division. Jones brought with him a bevy of young, untried Aberavon backs and, though Neath had a core of experience at forward, it was felt they would be exposed behind.

They struggled early on and, when they were defeated at home by the champions Cardiff, Neath's assistant coach Lyn Jones described it as men against boys.



Clear run... the Neath captain and Wales lock Gareth Llewellyn, centre, puts his better foot forward in training this week. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

Unusually they do not have a goal-kicking full-back or outside-half. Their two scrum-halves Patrick Horgan and Chris Bridges take the responsibility though it rarely amounts to anything more than converting tries.

Despite Neath's lofty position, Daryll Jones believes the best is still to come. However, they will next season have to find two second rows to replace the Llewellyn brothers, who are joining London clubs, while the Wales centre Leigh Davies, in his first full season at the Gnoil, is a target for both League and Union English clubs.

"Things have gone better than perhaps we dared hope," said Jones. "What we set out to do from the outset was to play fast, open rugby involving all 15 players. There was no doubt that the First Division game had become dull and we wanted to put some colour into it."

"After we had lost three and drawn one of our opening 11 league matches I thought our chance had gone but we are now leading the way. There is a long way to go and we still have to play two sides in the top four but we have hit form at the right time. Tomorrow's semi-final should be a foregone conclusion. It was less than two weeks ago that Neath defeated the same opponents 82-23. But statistics can be deceptive. They took the lead with only 19 minutes to go and were gifted four intercep-

tion tries in 11 crazy minutes. "I have never played in a match like it," said Neath's international No. 8 Steve Williams. "The fact we were up against it for an hour and trailed by 17 points at one stage will concentrate minds. We expect a hard match, although Williams is a survivor from last season and he explained: "The emphasis is different: last season it was all about getting fit by going on long road runs. This year the emphasis on ball-handling and movement. Fitness is still important but we now spend entire sessions on skills."

Ill health forces Christie to quit as SA coach

KITCH CHRISTIE has resigned as coach of South Africa for health reasons. Christie, who was in hospital last week with pneumonia, is replaced by Andre Markgraf. Rex Mordt remains assistant coach.

Football Union said that Christie, who has steered his side to 14 consecutive Test victories as well as last year's World Cup triumph, would remain as national director of coaching.

Morne du Plessis, a former Springbok captain who managed the World Cup squad, said the 53-year-old Christie "had given more than one man could expect to give".

Christie replaced Ian McIntosh as coach in August 1994, and in two months prepared the team for a successful home Test series against Argentina.

Tennis

Tough experience for Croats

GORAN IVANISEVIC and his Croatian teammates must beat Australia, winners of the Davis Cup 25 times, if they are to regain a place in the World Group.

Other pairings in the qualifying round are Mexico-Argentina, Brazil-Austria, Romania-Belgium, Netherlands-New Zealand, Russia-Hungary, Spain-Denmark and Switzerland-Denmark.

Results

Soccer: SPAIN BEAT ITALY 1-0 in the final of the UEFA Cup. FRANCE BEAT GERMANY 2-0 in the final of the UEFA Super Cup. ENGLAND BEAT ITALY 1-0 in the final of the UEFA Intertoto Cup.

Baseball: CLEVELAND BEAT PITTSBURGH 7-6 in the final of the American League Championship Series. ST. LOUIS BEAT PITTSBURGH 3-2 in the final of the National League Championship Series.

Basketball

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (Paris): SPAIN BEAT ITALY 76-70 in the final. USA BEAT ITALY 86-75 in the final of the World Championship.

Rugby Union

CLUB MATCHES: Pontypool v Bridgend 61-9. STONES SUPER LEAGUE: WARRINGTON v HULL 20-10. HOCKEY: NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS (Major Knockout): Great Britain v Australia 3-2.

RUGBY LEAGUE CUP FINAL WEMBLEY STADIUM Saturday 27th April. TICKETMASTER BOOK TICKETS NOW ON 0171-344 4444

Baseball: CLEVELAND BEAT PITTSBURGH 7-6. Soccer: SPAIN BEAT ITALY 1-0. Basketball: SPAIN BEAT ITALY 76-70. Rugby Union: CLUB MATCHES: Pontypool v Bridgend 61-9.

Fixtures: (7:30 unless stated). Soccer: IRELAND BEAT SWITZERLAND 2-0. Basketball: USA BEAT ITALY 86-75. Rugby Union: CLUB MATCHES: Pontypool v Bridgend 61-9.

سكتا الال

صوتك من الامل



Horse guards parade... all part of the pageantry that traditionally welcomes the visitor to Millwall, complete with mounted policemen in full riot gear

Running the gauntlet at The Den

Soccer violence has not gone away. It is still very much alive, yet hooligans and policemen are finding that it does not make news any more. **John Duncan** came to this realisation the hard way after watching Millwall entertain Birmingham City this week

A DOZEN policemen in riot gear, complete with visors, were charging down the narrow path to South Bermondsey railway station. "Get out of our bloody way," said one. Bang, a truncheon came down. "Run," said another. It was sensible advice.

In fact the victims of violence in Birmingham were Millwall's fans and players, and it was the home club the FA chose to punish. Birmingham's comments are now the subject of an inquiry that could lead to further punishment for the club, the FA said yesterday.

On Wednesday night there were police-horse charges, the odd throw of a truncheon, stones and glasses thrown, screeching policemen on the pavement, a couple of roadblocks, six arrests,

matches, "but there is a growing group of people who, given the opportunity, will join in. The violence is perhaps increasing but it is away from the ground." Chapman insists the vast majority of Millwall fans have no interest in violence and are desperate to shed the image bestowed them by the Seventies.

Money has helped shift the problem too. "The top clubs have been able to massage it away," said John Williams of the Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research. "Because of the increased demand for entry the people who want trouble can't get in any more. But there is a real thing going on in the Endersleigh Ground, where clubs have been left behind by recent changes and their type of supporters have not changed so much."

Some Newcastle fans were shocked when visiting Stoke supporters went on a wrecking spree, overturning cars. It was as if they had not realised things had changed and no one did this any more.

But it does still happen. Anyone in London's Camden Town on the Saturday night before this year's Coca-Cola Cup final will testify to that. Late that night Leeds fans attacked the Jazz Cafe, a fashionable live-music venue and nightclub, rampaging around the area and attacking bystanders.

When they failed to batter down the door of the club with a ripper-out street sign they turned on clubgoers waiting in the queue. Result: Hooligans 1, Column inches 0. Similar news blackouts followed an ambush by Middlesbrough thugs of a train from Middlesbrough to Nottingham that stopped at Thornaby, and the ritual skin-misery between Arsenal and Tottenham gangs at White Hart Lane station after this season's north London derby.

FA date set for Asprilla

NEWCASTLE'S \$7.5 million Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla and the Manchester City captain Keith Curle will appear before the Football Association on April 30 to explain their clash at Maine Road on February 24.

The pair were involved in a running battle during the Premiership match and soon after half-time Asprilla, angered when he was hauled back as he tried to burst through, lashed out with his elbow and caught Curle in the face. The referee Martin Bodenham took no action.

After the final whistle the players tangled again near a linesman, Asprilla appearing to butt Curle.

Bonetti agrees to try again with Grimsby

GRIMSBY'S Italian striker Ivano Bonetti is to stay at Blundell Park after a meeting with the club yesterday.

Leeds clear-out

LEEDS UNITED will herald the end of the Leslie Silver era with a summer clear-out. The retirement of the chairman after 14 years surprised many outsiders but inside Elland Road they had been planning for the day for some time.

Bill Fotherby, the new caretaker chairman, said on Clubtalk that there is "no sugar daddy waiting in the wings to bankroll a host of big-money signings. But we have a good sound base here with the young players and now we need some fresh and experienced players."

Sailing

Ainslie on right wavelength

BEN AINSLIE of Great Britain opened his account in the BP Laser world championship at Simonstown, South Africa, by winning his first race in very difficult conditions, writes Bob Fisher.

Athletics

Lynch back in action after drug-test precaution over flu medicine

NINENNA LYNCH, Liz McColgan's main rival in the BUPA International Road Race in Portsmouth tomorrow, will be making her return to competition after withdrawing from last month's World Cross Country Championships to avoid failing a drug test.

Rugby League

Skerrett set for Warrington

PAUL FITZPATRICK each received two-match bans. Anderson was sent off for a high tackle in last Friday's match at Oldham. Halas was cited by the RFL after an incident in the same game in which Oldham's winger Rob Myler suffered a broken nose.



Extra time Edited by Jeremy Alexander

The Boat Race re-run tomorrow

SOME reckon one Boat Race is a ballyhoo too far. Tomorrow there is another, Oxford v Cambridge again, already, the same personnel. The crews reappear in Gainesville, Georgia, where the Olympic regatta will be held in July. They do battle with each other, plus Harvard and Yale, over 2,000 still-water metres of Lake Lanier. It is the first time all four protagonists in the world's most famous boat races have met.

The idea belongs to Dick Fishlock, a Blue whose Oxford crew represented Britain in the Rome Olympics. Having sold it — the US are holding their Olympic trials this weekend and it gives an extra chance to test the facilities — he found himself with a professional challenge. His business is raising sponsorship. He managed \$115,000 out of the \$150,000 required for an event embracing the four universities' women's, men's lightweight and masters' crews, too.

Sixth column

EVEN Curtis Strange, who probably lost the 1986 Masters by failing to blast out of the creek in front of the 18th green when leading by two strokes on the last round, welcomes its return to a trickle. Six years ago damming raised the water level to engulf balls without trace.

It took an iron bar to crack a loophole in the rules governing US Olympic competitors. It hit the skater Nancy Kerrigan across the knee but Tonya Harding still competed in the Lillehammer Winter Games. This weekend the US Olympic Committee considers a stricter code of conduct. Competitors, once selected for Atlanta, will be required to sign a code which forbids "activities which may result in civil or criminal charges".

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FOOTBALL COMES HOME



Comaneci... overdoing it

Witnesses clash over Tyson claim, page 13

The true face of soccer violence, page 15

South Africa's rugby coach resigns, page 14

Warrington eye Kelvin Skerrett, page 15

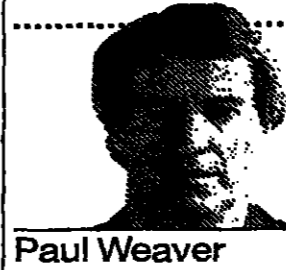
Sports Guardian

THE MASTERS: SPANISH VETERAN BACK ON COURSE AT AUGUSTA



Springing the trap... Seve Ballesteros, who was fitted for the green jacket in 1980 and 1983, finds the answer to the riddle of the sand as he plays out of a bunker on the 1st hole. After his recent poor run, Ballesteros would have been relieved to open with a one-over-par round of 73 which gives him a chance of beating the cut. Reports, page 22 PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN MUNDAY

Even WG was a bodger with a pencil



Paul Weaver

AT THIS moment Raymond Iltingworth, who is showing all the signs of a healthy paranoia, is probably holed up in his Yorkshire bunker, giggling maniacally as he takes a Gumm & Moore to efigies of Ian Botham and David Graveney. He should have a peek at history.

The game represents the eternal search for an elusive balance and the match will be played on a surface which has within it all the treachery of a used-car salesman. The next time you see two captains pawing the pitch, half-close your eyes and you will see a couple of archaeologists trying to decipher snudged hieroglyphics on an ancient Egyptian tomb. England's selectors, however, clearly top the bloopers' league. The most glaring sin in Sygne's book is inconsistency. With the England selectors every evening, it seems, is a night of the long pencils. We cannot even decide who should lead the side. Between 1889 and 1909 England had six captains compared with Australia's two; in the decade 1930-39 the figures were six-three; from 1960-70 eight-three; and from 1980-88, when Australia's contestants themselves with Greg Chappell, Kim Hughes and Allan Border, and West Indies made do with Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards, England had nine captains.

Rugby clubs quit league

Robert Armstrong on the shock decision by 24 leading lights to boycott RFU competitions in the fight to control the English game

ENGLISH rugby stood on the brink of all-out war last night as Twickenham considered a shock decision by the leading clubs to pull out of next season's league and cup competitions. The boycott by the top 24 clubs will take effect from late August unless the clubs and the Rugby Football Union can resolve their bitter power struggle over television income and control of the game's domestic, Anglo-Welsh and European competitions. The clubs are also seeking the removal of Cliff Brittle as head of the RFU negotiating team which has held a series of acrimonious talks with their representatives in recent weeks. They want the RFU president Bill Bishop to step in and take over Brittle's duties. The RFU secretary Tony Hallett said: "I am delighted they have stopped short of a breakaway." Yet the clubs' withdrawal from cup and league constitutes a breakaway in all but name. Last night Brittle held the door ajar for further negotiations. He said: "In order to implement the game's overwhelming vote for a seamless open game, the RFU must maintain overall control in the interests of all its members. "In particular, the RFU holds the national representative sides as being paramount, but underpinned by the strongest club structure. Subject to the above stipulations, the other differences between the RFU and the top clubs are negotiable around the table as soon as possible."

Kerr later added: "It is becoming increasingly difficult to solve this with Cliff Brittle and one way forward would be if he stepped down or were removed from office." Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive who helped to set up Epruc, denied that the clubs were trying to wrest control of the game away from Twickenham. "We had nothing to lose," he said. "We are not rebel clubs. We are not looking to hijack anything. The RFU is an amateur organisation for amateur clubs but we are professional clubs and our problems are different. The RFU should give us a measure of control." Nevertheless, some RFU members regard the attempt to oust Brittle, a tough negotiator with a clear mandate, as the thin end of the wedge: if Brittle is sacrificed, they argue, he will be replaced by someone more pliable. Others believe that Brittle, who was elected in January with a landslide majority, is simply being tested out by the money men who have come increasingly to dominate club rugby at all levels.

One immediate consequence of the boycott would be that no League One clubs would be relegated this season, a dramatic reversal of Twickenham's decision this week that two should go down. Epruc wants League One increased from 10 to 12 clubs. Epruc has been eager to claim that it fully represents the 24 clubs in membership, yet some do have doubts about the wisdom of a full-scale confrontation with Twickenham.

Northern clubs such as Orrell, Sale and Wakefield are reluctant to rush to the barricades while the London Exiles, Scottish and Irish, would prefer a low-key compromise. Richmond also support the RFU. "We intend to make full financial investment in the future of English club rugby and we alone can do it," said the Epruc statement. "The RFU's policy is of necessity driven by the need urgently to raise revenue for themselves, given their overall financial situation." "This refers to a \$34 million bank loan taken out to rebuild Twickenham which costs about \$3 million a year to service. It is hard to see how Twickenham can accede to the clubs' demand to negotiate their own TV contracts and still raise the money necessary to pay off the loan and develop the game. Epruc said: "Even at this late hour we believe that a compromise must be reached with the RFU - otherwise there will be a split, for which the RFU will be held responsible."



Brittle... under attack

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McCarthy 10-year Cup ticket ban

Russell Thomas Mick McCarthy, the Republic of Ireland manager, has called a press conference for this morning in Dublin to explain how two 1995 FA Cup final tickets issued to him found their way on to the black market. McCarthy, who took over from Jack Charlton only two months ago, is anxious to give his version of events after being banned yesterday from receiving FA Cup final tickets for 10 years. The two £60 tickets issued to McCarthy, then manager of Millwall, for the final between Everton and Manchester United ended up with two Norwegian supporters who paid £350 each for their seats. McCarthy, 37, a former Republic captain, is the biggest-name victim of investigations into the black market trade at the 1995 final. Last week the FA black-listed 36 individuals and organisations. The ban is not only on McCarthy but also on the Football Association of Ireland, already troubled by alleged ticket irregularities at the 1994 World Cup in the United States. The FA spokesman Steve Double said: "Mick McCarthy told us that he had passed on the tickets to two associates at face value and that he had made no monetary gain from the transaction, which we accept." "But in any event he was in breach of the conditions he signed when he received the tickets. They state that tickets should not be passed on, with or without payment, unless you have the prior written consent of your county FA, club or the organisation which made the original allocation."

Crawley is chiefly known for two things: Gatwick and its crematorium. No one likes to linger too long at either. Walking round you had the overwhelming sense of 50,000 people going silently out of their minds.

Guardian Crossword No 20,625

Set by Mercury

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Across

- 1,5 ac. Picked rush job one wants to do? (8,6)
- 8 Theatre worker certainly on around midnight (7)
- 9 I'd taken a member a beer, transfixed (7)
- 11 One may get to stroll in these if one's patient (8,7)
- 12 The doctor's rejected it, miss (4)
- 13 Express disapproval of first person in and reduce in price (10)
- 17 Monkey with tail bites youth leader after brutal behaviour (10)
- 18 Advantage of turning outside broadcast on (4)
- 20 Change is needed in this place of entertainment (9,6)
- 23 Dislikes dead tsetse flies (7)
- 24 Quietly sit back in club provided by church member (7)
- 25 Same you need a spermer for? (6)
- 26 Mission operated in East Street (6)

Down

- 2 Has way onto vessel in difficulties (9)
- 3 Nurse in charge admits said sea is picturesque (6)
- 4 Matchless iron plane is broken (8)
- 5 Stick with Capone without shouting (5)
- 6 Blame the fish salesman for going ahead (8)
- 7 Girl embracing students is not five, even! (5)
- 8 They provided educational establishment for tutor to get on with (6,5)

Crossword Solution 20,625

- Nice MD's rent adjustment stoves keen judgment (11)
- Can be turned from a duty list to any list (9)
- Love helping after a party (9)
- Theologian is to relax inside, being unwell (8)
- Appropriate support given by mounted soldiers (6)
- A topless golf club, say! (5)
- Found in custard when suet pudding's to follow (5)

Solution tomorrow

*2P Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 288. Calls cost 30p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS

صوتنا من الامم